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THE

SCHOOL FOR FASHION,

IN TWO VOLUMES.

BY MRS. THICKNESSE.

Vice is a Monſter of ſo frightful Mien,
As, to be hated, needs but to be ſeen;
Yet ſeen too oft', familiar with her face,
We firſt endure, then pity, then embrace.

POPE.

VOLUME THE SECOND.

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CHAP. XXVI.

EUTERPE LEAVES TOWN: ACCOMPANIES LADY ELIZABETH TUDOR TO FELIX HALL, IN ESSEX.

EUTERPE having quitted the gay ſcenes of the metropolis for that rational enjoyment which every contemplative mind muſt feel in retirement, ſhe had leiſure to compoſe her agitated ſpirits and meditate with gratitude to heaven for her many providential eſcapes; being more than once on the brink of ruin. She had not been but two months in the country, on a viſit with Lady Elizabeth, before her Ladyſhip was ſafely delivered of a ſon who, immediately upon his birth, was carried into the apartment of Euterpe, and received as her *future godſon*, with all that maternal

tenderneſs which ſhe ever after evinced when he became her ſon-in law; but little did ſhe *then* think that ſuch an event would ever take place! As ſoon as Lady Elizabeth was able to ſit up, the young infant was chriſtened, to which ceremony moſt of the neighbouring nobility were invited. Her Ladyſhip, who never enjoyed a good ſtate of health after the birth of her eldeſt ſon, grew infinitely worſe, and died a few months after her laſt lying-in of an internal decay, or liver complaint, at the age of only thirty-ſeven! As ſoon as Mr. Tudor had paid a juſt tribute to thoſe virtues ſhe poſſeſſed, by erecting a monument with an handſome inſcription to her memory, he ſet out for London, leaving his four children under the protection of Euterpe, who retired with them to a delightful cottage, cloſe to the ſea; and ſituated at the bottom of very high rocks which ſheltered them entirely from the north-eaſt winds; in this ſweet ſolitude did ſhe employ herſelf for many months, during the abſence of Mr. Tudor,

in

in inſtructing her young pupils, who made ſo great a progreſs under her tuition, as both aſtoniſhed and delighted Mr. T. on his return home. His eſteem for Euterpe encreaſed daily, and heightened the good opinion he had before entertained of her, and as ſhe had given ſuch inconteſtable proofs of her virtue and prudence in her virgin ſtate, and had treated his children with ſo much tenderneſs as made them regard her as a mother, he was reſolved, as ſoon as decency would permit, to lead her to the altar! Thus was the now happy Euterpe rewarded for having preſerved her innocence, and recompenced for all the troubles and vexations ſhe had endured; and, as a convincing proof that ſhe continued to conduct herſelf with unabating affection and prudence towards her huſband and his children, the following extract from a letter her huſband received ten or twelve years after during his reſidence on the Continent, from his eldeſt ſon, then an Enſign at G——r, will clearly evince! "I am happy to hear

" my mother (meaning Mrs. Tudor) is
" well, after travelling ſo long a journey:
" pray aſſure her of my tendereſt love
" and affection; I ſhall ever be bound
" to love her for her many kindneſſes
" to me, excluſive of her unparalleled
" love for my dear father." And in another, written a few years after to Mrs. Tudor, he ſays, " Your treatment, dear Ma-
" dam, has been ſuch towards me, that
" I have not known the loſs of a mo-
" ther!"

How pleaſing, how delightful, muſt theſe reſpectful and affectionate expreſſions be to a ſtep-mother from the child of a man in whom was centered all her happineſs! What a ſweet ſatisfaction to an heart, fraught with ſenſibility, to find that her endeavours to procure happineſs to her huſband and family were crowned with ſucceſs! No difference did ſhe make in any one reſpect betwixt her own and her children in law: no jealouſy of courſe, ever ſubſiſted between them, all lived in perfect harmony with each other;

which

which muſt ever be the caſe when parents treat their children *impartially!* But ſtill it cannot be ſuppoſed that this felicity could continue always unchangeable! When children come to a time of life in which they wiſh to throw off that conſtraint, they naturally feel themſelves under, however they may have been indulged, whilſt in a ſtate of dependancy, they are eager to enjoy their full liberty without controul. The conduct of daughters ſeldom vary during their ſingle ſtate, whilſt under the watchful eye of a careful and affectionate parent; but it is very different with young men, who muſt neceſſarily be educated at public ſchools, where they are ſoon weaned from every tender ſenſation, particularly towards their mother; and wherein they frequently imbibe thoſe ſentiments which, but too often, poiſon their morals; and by forming an intimacy with others of vicious diſpoſitions, they become ſo ſtrongly tinged with their vices, as to loſe all reliſh for any thing that is good; ſo true it is, that

whilſt

whilſt they are ſtudying to become proficients in learning, their hearts they oftentimes become corrupted, ſo that if they do not poſſeſs good diſpoſitions, or ſtudy thoſe authors, from whom they may receive ſuch inſtructions as will ſerve to enlighten their minds, they will, when they launch into the world, fall victims to their own unruly paſſions; particularly thoſe who are not brought up to any profeſſion, by which their minds may be kept in conſtant employ. Thoſe of rank and fortune, who are in the very vortex of Ton and Faſhion, allow themſelves but little time to think of any thing that does not immediately ſerve to indulge their inclinations. However, there are ſome who have evinced a love for virtue, though they have, for a time, from aſſociating with young men of profligate principles, been led to deviate from its laws, and have returned back from the intoxicating pleaſures of the world to a ſenſe of honour and of virtue. Such hopes did Mrs. Tudor nouriſh with regard to a once amiable

amiable youth, whom ſhe never ceaſed to love, though ſhe could not but ſeverely lament his conduct; but a return to virtue is never to be diſpaired of, unleſs the ſeeds of vice have ſo ſtrongly impregnated the ſoul's deepeſt receſs, as to admit of no contrition: then, indeed, all is loſt, both with reſpect to this world and hereafter! In ſhort, there is but little doubt that half the miſery which mankind endure, and above half the misfortunes which happen to them, may be placed to a wrong education. Such, indeed, as are born with weak underſtandings, neither precept or example can effectually impreſs, for it is to be obſerved, that both men and women who have been remarkable for their virtues, and piety towards God, have been endued with a ſtrong underſtanding, for it certainly requires great ſtrength of mind and fortitude to combat with the paſſions. If then it is ſo difficult a matter for a wiſe man to gain a victory over himſelf, what muſt be the condition of a weak man? It is, therefore.

fore, of the firſt importance, both for the temporal and ſpiritual welfare of both ſexes, that they ſhould be well inſtructed in the ſound practice of virtue and religion, before they be ſuffered to enter into any profeſſion whatever! It is a folly to ſay, there is not in every ſituation in life, time for inſtructing their minds! This neglect is not for want of leiſure, but inclination and method, in thoſe whoſe buſineſs and duty it is to inſtill right principles into their children, pupils, or apprentices! What a train of evils proceed from the want of this care! Surely this is a ſubject worthy the interference of the legiſlative power! There are men enough to be found, with ſpirit and talents to conquer nations, but where are the Chieftains that have courage to fight with as much alacrity under the banners of virtue to exterminate vice? But the truth is, every thing in this world is governed by that tyrant Faſhion! The wiſe and the fooliſh equally ſubmit to its laws; therefore we have only to wiſh that

virtue may become faſhionable. If the great and powerful were all to unite and ſet the example, not only in their own perſons and conduct, but by a determination not to admit into their ſociety any one who has the leaſt flaw in their character; for otherwiſe, what does it ſignify, if a woman of exalted rank poſſeſſes the moſt amiable qualities, if ſhe countenances and receives ſuch as are well known to be infamous into her drawing room? Is not this an encouragement to vice? Can we reſpect ſuch a woman, though ſhe may poſſeſs every virtue herſelf, if ſhe ſmiles and looks benignly upon *her* who ſhe is well aſſured is guilty of crimes for which ſhe merits the execrations of thoſe whom, with their families, have been ſacrificed for her vanity. Strip her of her gaudy feathers, and ſee what merit ſhe poſſeſſes to intitle her to theſe attentions!! Theſe may be thought bold truths, but being truth, they ought to be ſeriouſly conſidered by thoſe who have ſo often ſuffered themſelves to be miſled; and, perhaps

from not having it pointed out, have not maturely weighed the matter, as it *muſt* appear to thoſe of diſcernment, but who have not had ſufficient courage to venture the avowal of an opinion that might give offence. But it is a falſe ſhame to be afraid of ſpeaking or writing the truth, in the cauſe of VIRTUE; ſuch fear beſpeaks a ſervile mind; every individual is free and upon an equality as to freedom of thought; and therefore every one has the ſame liberty to expreſs his ſentiments, if they tend to good to ſociety! Not that we are ſo arrogant as to imagine that thoſe truths which we venture to point out, will produce any kind of alteration in thoſe who have for a length of time been ſo accuſtomed to indulge themſelves in habits, which even their own better judgment have not enabled them to conquer! It is not to ſuch, we preſume to offer our humble advice, but to the *young unformed minds* of the riſing generation, to whom we addreſs this publication; humbly offering our aſſiſtance to

guide

guide them into the path of virtue and honour, and prevent, in time, their being contaminated by the examples of the vicious and abandoned of both ſexes. We think it a duty to warn them of the danger of imitating thoſe profligate characters who diſhonour their own nature: more particularly, as ſome of theſe profane and worthleſs beings, have the art of pleaſing, and, by an inſinuating addreſs, and flattering tongue, can eaſily captivate and draw into their ſnares the young and unwary. Thoſe who are wicked and can make themſelves agreeable, are the moſt to be dreaded; and their manners may be compared to a fatal poiſon concealed in honey! It is ſuch who endeavour to corrupt the hearts of the credulous and unſuſpicious! If we can guard but one from falling into thoſe follies and vices by which youth and innocence are in danger of being both miſerable here as well as hereafter, the ſaving that *one* from ruin, will be to us a noble recompence!

CHAP. XXVII.

MR. AND MRS. TUDOR PROPOSE TO SET OUT FOR THE CONTINENT. LADY D. B. SIGNIFIES HER WISH OF MAKING A PURCHASE OF FELIX COTTAGE.

MR. Tudor being adviſed to travel for a billious complaint, to which he had long been a martyr, he ſold his commiſſion, with an intention of reſiding either in France or Italy. Lady D. B. to whom he mentioned his intentions, entreated him to favour her with the refuſal of his delightful cottage, if he intended to part with it; to which he politely replied, that if he ſold it at all, her Ladyſhip ſhould, moſt certainly, have the preference; and begged of her to name a day when ſhe would do him the honour to dine with him and Mrs. Tudor. I ſhall be happy (replied her Ladyſhip) to wait upon Mrs. Tudor whom I have not ſeen

ſince

ſince her marriage, but who, I am informed, continues to conduct herſelf with that prudence for which ſhe gained ſuch great reputation while ſhe was ſingle; and yet, to ſhew the ill nature and cenſorioufneſs of the world, ſhe was not without her enemies, among whom was one of her own family, who never forgave her leaving her father's houſe, and more particularly her appearing in public!—Your Ladyſhip cannot but know, ſaid Mr. T. that his reaſons for being angry with Euterpe aroſe from a falſe pride, for I am well aware, from what I have heard him drop in converſation, he would have much rather have ſeen his n—— the miſtreſs of a *nobleman*, than ſhe ſhould have ſo *diſhonoured* his family by exerting her talents to preſerve her innocence! "Come, come," ſays Lady B. ſmiling, "you are a little "too ſatirical upon the learned gentle- "man, who certainly, though wrong in "that point, is a man of excellent cha- "racter, a good huſband and an indul- "gent father; but the wiſeſt ſometimes

"are

" are too apt to ſuffer their judgment to
" be biaſſed by prejudice, and we all
" know that prejudice too often governs
" our reaſon; it is a weakneſs to which
" human nature is too frequently liable."
——" And pray, Madam, after all," ſaid
Mr. T. " to keep up your Ladyſhip's ar-
" gument, can it be any thing but a *weak*
" prejudice, aſſiſted by a wrong headed
" pride that ſhould think a young woman
" culpable for endeavouring to gain a
" ſubſiſtence by her talents, provided ſhe
" conducts herſelf with modeſty, pru-
" dence and propriety? Is there any
" difference, at leaſt I ſee none, between
" a young woman ſinging, painting, or
" acting for a livelihood, and a lawyer, a
" phyſician, or a man either in the army
" or navy, earning their bread by *their*
" *talents* and abilities? It ſeems to me
" that the *diſgrace* which a young woman
" incurs by publicly exerting any of the
" above talents is being paid for it! For
" what does ſhe do, that appears ſo cri-
" minal, but exerciſe more publicly in-

" deed

" deed, thoſe very elegant accompliſh-
" ments, that perſons of the very higheſt
" rank are ſo very anxious to attain for
" their own and their friends amuſement?
" Why ſhould it be looked upon as a
" greater diſgrace for a woman to earn a
" living by her talents than a man? When
" the ſubject is ſeriouſly conſidered, it
" is ſo very abſurd that it deſerves the
" utmoſt ridicule: for my part I am of
" this opinion, that if young women were
" *well educated* and were taught to become
" *proficients* in whatever act or ſcience they
" might have an inclination to ſtudy,
" there would not be ſo many unhappy
" girls on the town, who are too *genteely*
" brought up to get their bread any other
" way than *that* which their misfortunes
" have led them to! It is true they are
" taught at ſchool a great many fine ac-
" compliſhments in which they are often
" ſo very ſuperficial that they only ſerve,
" pour paſſer le tems. I know from my
" own knowledge a young woman, upon
" whoſe education her uncle has ſpent

" ſeven

" ſeven hundred pounds; but as the old
" gentleman had, as far as he thought,
" done his own duty, he made but little
" enquiry as to what proficiency his niece
" made in the different ſtudies in which
" he ſuppoſed her time had been em-
" ployed during the number of years ſhe
" had been at a capital boarding-ſchool.
" When the *accompliſhed* Miſs returned
" home to her uncle, whoſe time was
" wholly employed in his profeſſion
" without doors, ſo that ſhe had no one
" to converſe with, except an old infirm
" female relation, whoſe head at beſt was
" weak, or a maid ſervant; the natural
" conſequence was, that Miſs found home
" very dull; ſhe therefore frequently
" walked out, and aſſociating with a few
" girls of her own age, became acquaint-
" ed with ſome young officers who were
" quartered in the town where ſhe re-
" ſided, one of whom, a married man, a
" *circumſtance* ſhe was not unacquainted
" with, paid his court to Miſs, whom he,
" in a very ſhort time, ſeduced, and

" then

" then left her in a pregnant ſtate, and to
" thoſe bitter reflections which have near-
" ly brought her to the ſtate of a maniac!
" Her uncle turned her out of doors when
" ſhe was delivered of a ſon, and in that
" condition without money, food or rai-
" ment, ſhe is nearly upon the brink of
" periſhing, with a young infant at her
" breaſt; now this unhappy young wo-
" man, though ſhe was taught the French
" language, is not able to pronounce a
" ſingle ſentence! Though ſhe learnt
" to write, I have ſeen a letter written
" with her own hand that has ſcarcely
" one word properly ſpelt! She alſo
" learnt to draw, in which art ſhe is
" equally competent; and as for muſic,
" ſhe can only play a few tunes without
" the leaſt knowledge of thorough baſs;
" and ſo on in every thing elſe ſhe was
" taught! Now, Madam, if this unfor-
" tunate young woman had excelled in
" any one of theſe polite arts, could ſhe
" not have gained an handſome liveli-
" hood, though it might, (in the eyes of

" ſome people) have caſt diſhonour upon
" her genteel relations?"—" What you
" ſay," replied Lady B. " is certainly
" true, and I really believe that half the
" young women owe their misfortunes
" through life, to a wrong management
" in the parent, and the ſhameful neglect
" of the ſchools: I know an inſtance my-
" ſelf of a ſhoemaker's daughter, falling
" a victim to her father's egregious folly,
" and her own conſummate vanity, by be-
" ing educated at a great boarding ſchool,
" in a manner far ſuperior to the line of
" life ſhe ought to have been bred to;
" which ſo puffed up the ſilly girl that
" when ſhe came home, ſhe was much too
" fine a lady to be of the leaſt uſe to her
" own family, and as you juſtly obſerved,
" ſhe was not proficient enough in any
" thing ſhe had learned to enable her to
" get her bread: the conſequence was, that
" ſhe was very ſoon after in a very diſgrace-
" ful and deplorable ſituation; ſo that I
" fear, in a ſhort time, her exit will parody
" the deſcription which GAY has given of

" a ruined

" a ruined and contaminated virgin in his
" Opera, which, whilſt cloathed with in-
" nocence, is a fair flower in its luſtre,
" but when once defiled, rots, ſtinks, and
" dies, and is trod under foot! I hap-
" pened by accident to ſee this unfortu-
" nate girl when I was at BATH, and re-
" turning one morning from the Pump-
" room, I paſſed a ſhoemaker's ſhop, and
" ſeeing the name of the man I employed
" over the door, I walked into the ſhop,
" which was ſo intolerably dirty, that I
" was coming out again, when I perceived
" a very pretty woman ſo elegantly
" dreſſed, that I thought ſhe might be a
" cuſtomer come to order ſhoes, and was
" ſurpriſed to ſee that ſhe had on neither
" bonnet or cloak; but I was preſently
" undeceived upon her accoſting me
" with, pray, Madam, what is it you
" would pleaſe to have? I replied, I
" wiſhed to ſpeak with the maſter of
" the ſhop, who had my orders for a
" pair of ſhoes; to which ſhe anſwer-
" ed, that her *papa* was not at home,

" but was expected in every minute, and
" begged I would walk into the parlour,
" with which request I immediately com-
" plied; when she, with great civility,
" shewed me into a little dark room, not
" much cleaner than the shop, and where
" I seated myself in one corner of it, to
" contemplate the two objects which pre-
" sented themselves to my view; the
" above mentioned young *Lady*, who by
" her dress and manner I took at first for
" a girl of some fashion, and a poor little
" ragged girl with a dirty face, and so
" dejected a countenance, that I could
" not help feeling some compassion for
" her, standing by the fire side skimming
" the pot; and whom I really imagined
" they had taken out of charity. I had,
" indeed, put my hand in my pocket with
" an intention to have offered her a trifle
" to buy her a top-knot, when the shop-
" boy called out to the young Lady to
" speak to a customer. I then took oc-
" casion to speak to this little wretched
" object, saying, so my little maid, how

" long

" long have you lived with Mr. H. ?—
" 'laws, *mam*,' ſaid the girl, 'I was born
" here !'—What, ſaid I, are you then any
" relation to him?—The poor girl ſeemed
" at that queſtion, much confuſed, co-
" loured, and in a faultering voice, ſaid
" No! At this inſtant Mr. H. came in,
" and when I had done ſpeaking to him
" about my ſhoes, I went home, and
" mentioned the circumſtance to my
" landlady, who told me, that the poor
" ragged girl I had ſeen was the ſhoe-
" maker's youngeſt daughter, but was
" ordered never to call her father any
" thing but Maſter! That the poor thing
" was never taught to read, and ſcarcely
" was ever ſuffered to go out of doors,
" having no cloaths fit to appear in,
" whilſt his impudent pert fine Lady
" Daughter, ſaid ſhe, is continually
" flaunting about, and will not deign to
" do any thing in the houſe, but com-
" mands her poor diſconſolate ſiſter to
" obey her in every thing ſhe requires to
" be done, and treats her as if ſhe were
" a ſlave!

" a ſlave!—This account made my heart
" ach, and I felt impatient to ſee the
" father, that I might reproach him for
" his partiality, and the unjuſt difference
" he made betwixt his own children who
" were equally intitled to his parental
" regard. The next day he came, when
" I told him, I was very much hurt to
" perceive he made ſo great a diſtinction
" betwixt his own two daughters, as one
" was dreſſed as much too fine for her
" ſituation, as the other was too mean,
" being ſo exceedingly ragged and dirty,
" that I really took her for a poor found-
" ling, whom he had taken out of cha-
" rity! He aſked me, with ſome con-
" fuſion, if the girl had told me that ſhe
" was his daughter?—No, ſaid I, the
" miſtreſs of this houſe informed me ſhe
" was; at which he looked very much
" confounded, and then ſaid in a ſtam-
" mering voice, why, Madam, I confeſs
" that my youngeſt girl does not look as
" if ſhe belonged to my eldeſt daughter,
" who moſt *fartenly* has had greatly the

" *vantage*

" *vantage* over her ſiſter, as ſhe has been
" brought up in much the *genteeleſteſt* man-
" ner at a great boarding-ſchool in this
" town, where all our firſt-rate gentry are
" *edecated*; and I *aſſures* your Ladyſhip,
" that your Ladyſhip would be quite
" charmed, *was* you but to hear as how
" ſhe ſings and *companies* herſelf upon a
" little ſpinet which I bought for her
" at an auction, and after my work is
" done in an evening, I takes my pot of
" porter and enjoys myſelf whilſt my
" dear girl ſings to me like a little *Syrian*,
" and well does I deſerve the enter-
" tainment ſhe gives me, for I have paid
" a power of money for her *edecation* and
" I works very hard to maintain this laſs
" genteely !—— I ſuppoſe, ſaid I, you
" can give your daughter a pretty for
" tune then, Mr. H. ?—O no, my Lady,
" ſaid he, I can only, God help me, make
" ſcarcely both ends meet, for I denies
" myſelf much for to give her ſo nice an
" *edecation*, and to dreſs her like a gentle-
" woman, ſo that I *bes*, as I may ſay, ra-

" ther

" ther behind hand.—Then, as you have
" given her ſo good an education, ſaid I,
" I ſuppoſe ſhe is thoroughly qualified
" to teach muſic, drawing, or be a teacher
" at a boarding-ſchool?—That I am ſure,
" ſhe won't, ſaid he, nor do I think ſhe
" knows enough of muſic or any thing
" elſe to be able to learn others *thof* ſhe
" knows enough to amuſe herſelf and
" friends.—Then, ſays I, what is it, Mr.
" H. you propoſe ſhe ſhould do?—Why
" nothing at all, my Lady, *howſever*, at
" preſent, for I hope ſhe will get ſoon
" married, as ſhe is ſo *compliſhed*, for I am
" ſure ſhe is much too high in her notions
" to get her bread in any manner what-
" ſoever!—Then, Mr. H. ſaid I, (loſing
" all patience with the fooliſh fellow,) I
" am ſure you will rue the day that you
" ever ſent your daughter to a boarding-
" ſchool to fill her mind only with ideas
" far above her ſtation, and the ſchool
" you put her to, I know is a very gen-
" teel one.—To be ſure it is, interrupted
" the ſhoemaker, or I *ſhud* not a put her
" there:

" there;—and it is alſo a very expenſive
" one;—aye, that I knows to my coſt,
" ſaid Maſter Strap;—and where, conti-
" nued I, ſhe was treated upon an equal
" footing to thoſe young ladies who have
" rank and fortune; therefore I tell you
" again, your bringing her up in that ſtyle
" of elegance will be her utter ruin, un-
" leſs you could have either given her a
" fortune, or have taken care that ſhe
" ſhould have been ſo well inſtructed in
" any one particular branch as to have
" been able to have procured for herſelf
" a maintenance, for you may be aſſured,
" ſhe will not long employ her talents,
" ſmall as they may be, in juſt amuſing
" *you* over your pot of porter, nor will
" ſhe be able to ſpend her time with your
" unfortunate daughter, who, from your
" own cruel neglect, muſt appear diſguſt-
" ful to her, after having aſſociated with
" girls of diſtinction; you may, therefore,
" take it for granted what I ſay, that you
" will very ſhortly rue it! The poor

" fooliſh fellow looked very much con-
" fuſed, and ſtood for a while aghaſt, and
" then ſneeked off rather aſhamed. In
" a very few weeks after, I heard that
" this fine accompliſhed Miſs was ſe-
" duced by a low ſhopman in the town,
" and now is become a common proſti-
" tute!" The converſation thus ended, Mr. Tudor took leave of the Dowager Lady B. who promiſed to dine at Felix Cottage the next day.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXVIII.

MORAL REFLECTIONS ON THE LAST TOPIC OF CONVERSATION. LADY DOWAGER B. DINES WITH MR. AND MRS. TUDOR AT FELIX COTTAGE. A DESCRIPTION OF THAT PEACEFUL AND MOST DELIGHTFUL ABODE; AND THE MANNER IN WHICH HER LADYSHIP WAS ENTERTAINED THERE.

THE converſation which had paſſed between Lady B. and Mr. T. tempts us again to repeat (and truths of ſuch importance to the welfare of ſociety cannot be too often repeated) that the depravity of the age, the crimes that are committed, the infidelities in the married ſtate, with a long train of evils which would fill a volume to recite, are all owing, or at leaſt nine times in ten, to a wrong education. For, with the utmoſt

candour and impartiality we will venture to pronounce, that it is owing to the neglecting the *morals* of the girls whilſt at boarding-ſchools, and the indiſcretion of permitting them to herd together in private, particularly at thoſe hours they ought to be at reſt, is the true cauſe of ſo much miſery and wretchedneſs to which young people are daily known to be ſubject both before and after marriage! We do not doubt, but every miſtreſs of a boarding-ſchool, who may happen to ſee theſe pages, will be violently irritated by ſuch an aſſertion, as it may conſequently deprive them of ſome ſcholars: we, therefore, confeſs it gives us the utmoſt concern to find ourſelves under the painful neceſſity of ſpeaking againſt the intereſt of one ſet of individuals, at the ſame time we are endeavouring to promote the happineſs and welfare of another! But thus it is, with every circumſtance of life, good and evil generally come in at the ſame door, for whatever is againſt the intereſt of one party, muſt of courſe tend

to

to the advantage of the other! But it is contrary to our fixed plan, to withhold truths; for we are neither actuated by malice or partiality, or afraid of giving offence to any ſet of people, becauſe they are *intereſted* in its not being *divulged*, but which every parent ought to be made acquainted with, to prevent in future, thoſe pernicious conſequences, the dreadful effects of which, are ſo often, and ſo ſeverely felt, whilſt the cauſe is concealed, or not ſo much as ſuſpected! If this aſſertion aroſe only from imagination, prejudice, or any ſiniſter views, the truth might be doubted, but "FACTS are ſtubborn things!" We approve highly of ſchools *properly* managed, as they are abſolutely neceſſary for ſuch as have not abilities to educate their own children, or from any other cauſe, but then it is day-ſchools only, that are entirely ſafe, when the light of Heaven ſhines full upon all their actions; the dangers we hint at, are owing to thoſe tranſactions which ſo frequently happen between the ſetting

and

and riſing ſun! But if girls above the age of ten muſt be placed at a boarding-ſchool, and muſt be unfortunately ſeparated from their parents at night, they ought to be allowed a ſeparate bed-room. A *recent* inſtance of the effects of boarding-ſchool education we can only *hint* at: a young and beautiful woman, at the age of nineteen or twenty, fell a ſacrifice to paſſions which had been very early excited in the place of her education. The loſs of virtue followed, remorſe and deſpair ſucceeded, and this ſad progreſs ended in ſuicide!! Shudder ye thoughtleſs parents and negligent teachers and inſtructors of this poor loſt young woman! But what have *they* to expect will be their fate, who have been the ſole cauſe of this raſh action? Ignorant parents, for ſuch was this poor young creature's misfortune to have, cannot, it is true, help their ignorance, and from a conſciouſneſs of their own inability to inſtruct her themſelves, were under the neceſſity of ſending her to a boarding-ſchool near ——, where

———, where they concluded the governeſs and teachers were *competent* to the important taſk they had undertaken; ſo far they were excuſable, but they were likewiſe inſtrumental by their own ſilly conduct to the misfortunes of this unhappy girl, by leaving her at the age of fifteen or ſixteen, after ſhe came home from ſchool, to the care of an ignorant maid ſervant, whilſt they ſlept every night at a lodging they had a little way out of town! The conſequence was, their daughter uſed to ſtay out very late at night, and frequently, if ſhe had been at a dance, did not come home till break of day! Thus, ſhe was ſoon initiated into thoſe vices, for which ſhe had *imbibed* an inclination at the boarding ſchool, and before ſhe had attained the age of nineteen, ſhe was undone. This is *one* fatal inſtance, owing to the negligence of parents and ſchool-miſtreſſes, which has happened within our own knowledge; but, how many other poor abandoned wretches are there at this inſtant, who

were

were once innocent, amiable and lovely, and whose innocence has been betrayed from the want of care and prudence in those, who ought to have guarded them from harm! Surely, such parents are infinitely inferior to the brute creation; for even *they*, with the utmost tenderness and anxious care, watch diligently over their young; and shall the human species, particularly *woman*, possess less feeling for *her* offspring? No doubt, from what has been said on this very interesting subject, that more attention will be paid, in future, to what we have *hinted at* above, by those parents, who may probably peruse these pages; as it may happily prove the means of awakening their attention to a matter, which may be the source of infinite consequence to the welfare of their children. But as this can only be an advantage to a very few, we have only to lament that there is not some method adopted which might tend to stop the progress of a vice imbibed in early infancy! It is to be observed, that parents

in

in general are very fond of placing their children at thoſe ſchools where there is a great number of ſcholars, not conſidering the more there are, the leſs they are taught! for inſtance, a muſic maſter generally attends twice a week, when it is impoſſible for him to allow more than a quarter of an hour with each ſcholar: drawing and other maſters are in the ſame predicament; and as to the French language, it is generally taught in a very ſuperficial manner, and at a great expence. That is not all, they do not always return home quite as innocent as when they were foſtered under the wing of their own parents! It is infinitely better to remain *untaught*, than to *learn evil!* Let thoſe who can afford it have always an inſtructoreſs who has been well brought up, and of a religious turn, in their own houſe; and thoſe who cannot conveniently have ſuch a perſon, may find women of ſenſe and accompliſhments who really have been *well educated*, where their children would have juſtice done them; and where there

are but a very few in number, and with ſuch a woman they not only would retain their primitive innocence, but would be more perfectly taught thoſe accompliſhments proper for their ſtation in life. Much more might be ſaid on a ſubject of ſuch great importance to the welfare of ſociety in general, for as men in all ages, even the wiſeſt, have ever been influenced by women, it is of infinite conſequence that women ſhould be rendered worthy of that power which nature ſeems to have allotted them. Whilſt women deviate from the path of virtue to that alarming degree as they now do, it is no wonder that the men are libertines. We will here introduce an opinion we gave on a former occaſion: if men are immoral, 'tis becauſe they find women are profligate. For wherever the women have been renowned for their virtue, modeſty and reſerved conduct, the men have been equally remarkable for honour and probity.

Mr.

Mr. Tudor, on his return home to his cottage, having informed Mrs. Tudor, that Lady D. B. intended to honour them with her company next day to dinner, Mrs. T. was careful that nothing ſhould be wanting on *her* part that could contribute to the entertainment of her noble gueſt, for whom ſhe always felt the higheſt reſpect. As the cottage was allowed by every one who had ſeen it to be one of the prettieſt habitations of the kind that ever was made, it may afford ſome entertainment to the reader to peruſe a deſcription of it, which will not be the leaſt exaggerated, although it may appear to be ſomewhat romantic! It was ſituated at the bottom of a craggy mountain, ſupported by rocks of different hue ſloping towards a natural terrace of nearly a mile long, and within a bowſprit's length of the main ocean; the reaſon for aſcertaining it to be preciſely that diſtance, aroſe from a laughable circumſtance. The inhabitants of the cottage being very much alarmed early one morning on ſeeing a large Dutch ſhip of war,

lying cloſe to the cottage with the end of her bowſprit within the boundaries of the garden! nor was ſhe able to be got clear off till it was high water. The entrance to the cottage was through a very large arch built with ſtones, taken from among the rocks at low water, many of which were of ſuch a ſize that it required no leſs than ten men to lift one of them. Between the rock and the margin of the ſea was a moſt beautiful green ſod that both in ſummer and winter had the appearance of rich velvet; upon this ſod grew many a purple thiſtle, and alſo the eringo, or ſea holly. When the arch was firſt built, a large quantity of ſhingle or ſmall pebbles were ſprinkled on the mortar whilſt it was wet, mixed with ſmall pieces of looking-glaſs and talc, which made, when the ſun ſhone, a very brilliant appearance. With theſe were alſo intermixed ſmall bunches of pinks, double-wall and gilliflowers which greatly enriched it, and greatly added to its beauty. From this arch was a ſerpentine walk, that led up to the

the cottage by a gentle aſcent, planted on each ſide with aromatic ſhrubs. Over the cottage door a ſmall arch was turned which was covered with woodbines, and branches of the vine, that ſpread itſelf with great luxuriancy over great part of the cottage; in front of which, was a large window ſhaded with apricot branches on one ſide, and vines on the other; the room to which this window belonged was called the India parlour, being entirely hung with India paper, and furniſhed with chintz: over this room, which jutted out from the main building, was a flat roof of lead, over which was a tarpauling, whereon was placed ſome garden chairs, the whole roof being ſheltered by a green painted awning; from this roof there was an extenſive view of the ſea, which exhibited a moſt picturesque ſcene, from the infinite number of veſſels hourly paſſing to and fro' of every deſcription, from a man of war down to a fiſhing boat; and the ſetting of the ſun afforded ſuch a reſplendent ſpectacle as is beyond the power

of

of language to deſcribe. No one can have any conception of the grandeur of the ſetting of that beautiful luminary that ſees it only in land, for the ſea glitters for a conſiderable diſtance around it, as if it were on fire, when it ſeems to ſink majeſtically into the ocean! The entrance to this roof was by a ſmall door which opened from an inner room under the thatch. In the garden was a receſs adjoining the cottage, about twelve feet in breadth and ſix in depth, ornamented with ſhell work, and in which the ſpreading vines were fantaſtically twined about the lattice work againſt the wall: this receſs poſſeſſed the character of *L'Allegro*, a ſmall well executed figure being placed in a nich in the wall repreſenting "*Laughter* "*holding both his ſides.*" At the entrance of the receſs was placed a fine figure in lead, the ſize of a boy of fourteen, in a ruſtic habit, playing on the tabor and pipe, which was coloured after nature. Farther on was an hermit's cell adjoining to a receſs, which bore the character of

Il penſeroſo, from which a wicket opened into a cell where ſat at a table a figure repreſenting an hermit, the head and hands of which were finely modelled in wax. It was dreſſed in a long brown cloth habit tyed round the waiſt with a cord, from which hung his chaplet; his hoary beard was of a moſt venerable length. The table which was covered with green cloth, and upon it the beſt edition of MILTON, opened at the following paſſage, to which the figure pointed with his finger.———

" A look that's faſtened to the ground
" A tongue chain'd up without a ſound,
" O, ſweeteſt, ſweeteſt melancholy!"

There was likewiſe upon the table a ſmall crucifix, a ſcull and hour-glaſs. The floor and ſides of the cell, as well as the benches, were covered with matting. The ſouth entrance into the cottage was alſo over arched with woodbines, and opened into a ſmall entry, the top and ſides of which were lined with ſhells and ſhingle; this led into a room called the

Roman

Roman parlour, from its being entirely paved with Roman brick, taken from an old ruinous caſtle, half a mile diſtant from the cottage, built by the Romans in the time of *Julius Cæſar*. In this parlour were two large windows, which commanded a full wiew of the ſea; the top and ſides were entirely covered with ſhingle, ſhells, talc, ſmall pieces of looking-glaſs and ſpar, beſides a great number of ſmall copper and ſilver coin, dug out of the ruins of the caſtle. This room opened into a ſpacious dining parlour, in which there was a large ſaſh window, that looked into the orchard, wherein the apple trees were ſometimes ſo loaded with fruit that the branches dragged on the ground: this circumſtance uſed to cauſe much wonder being ſo near the ſea. A door opened out of this room into a very elegantly furniſhed drawing-room, in which was a very fine organ, and a variety of muſical inſtruments. There was alſo a very coſtly ſet of copue de perle, conſiſting of a pair of high candleſticks, a diſh, ewer, and bowl,

bowl, which had been uſed for the Sacrament at a private Catholic chapel; on another table was a mirror, the frame of which, as well as a ſet of dreſſing boxes, was green and gold finely varniſhed, done by the hands of the Counteſs of C——n, mother to Lady Elizabeth Tudor, and alſo a carpet of her Ladyſhip's needlework. The furniture was chintz, and the room was hung with blue paper feſtooned with flowers exquiſitely painted: on the ſame floor was an apartment, the furniture of which was white muſlin; the bottom of the window was nearly level with the floor, ſo that when it was open, one could fancy ones ſelf ſeated in the ſhrubbery, which was filled with the moſt fragrant aromatics. In the middle of the ſhrubbery was a ſmall mount, where was fixed a flag ſtaff, on which, upon particular occaſions, the King's colours were hoiſted. The kitchen and out offices were on the north ſide. There were four bedchambers above, two with a view to the ſea, and the others towards the orchard.

At one end of the garden was a ſummer-houſe converted into an aviary, on the top of it was a pigeon houſe. In another corner of the garden was a hut built with two large boats, one was the ground floor, and the other ſerved as a roof. In ſhort, to deſcribe all the romantic beauties and whimſicalities of this cottage would fill many pages: ſuffice it to ſay, that it was as delightful an habitation as nature and art combined could make it, and in which the taſte of Mr. Tudor was in every part conſpicuous. Having given the beſt idea we can of this enchanting ſpot, we will now give a deſcription of the ruſtic entertainment provided for Lady Dowager B. On the lawn, between the entrance arch and the Roman parlour was fixed a marquee, in which was a cold collation, conſiſting of ham, chickens, paſtry, fruits, &c. but the greateſt dainty of all, were ſome fine large lobſters caught that very morning before the door of the cottage; a fiſhing boat being kept for that purpoſe. When her Ladyſhip was within ſight of the

the cottage, the ruſtic ſcene commenced, which was as follows:—a pretty ſervant girl was ſeated near to the arch, employed at her ſpinning-wheel, habited in a green ſtuff gown, faced and robed with pink ſilk, a pink and white checked apron, and a ſtraw hat with pink ribbon. About the middle of the lawn ſat Mr. Tudor's eldeſt daughter dreſſed as a ſhepherdeſs, in a white ſtuff jacket and coat trimmed with pea-green ribbon, a white chip hat tyed with the ſame coloured ribbon and a band of natural roſe-buds, a crook by her ſide fixt to the ground, from which flowed a green ribbon that held a young lamb. Miſs Tudor was playing on the guittar, whilſt her little ſiſter danced; who was apparelled in muſlin tyed up with bunches of pinks and roſe-buds, and a wreath of roſes round her head. As ſoon as her Ladyſhip's carriage was within an hundred yards of the arch, Mr. and Mrs. Tudor walked out to meet her, when her Ladyſhip got out of her carriage and ſaluted Mrs. T. with great cordiality; her

ſurpriſe is not to be expreſſed when ſhe entered the gate on viewing that which we have juſt deſcribed. The pleaſure ſhe felt at ſo novel and paſtoral a ſcene was eaſily perceived by her look and manner, which is much more to be depended upon than merely complimentary ſpeeches which oftentimes mean nothing at all! After taking a view of the cottage and its environs, the company ſat down to the feſtive board, when her Ladyſhip politely expreſſed her ſatisfaction, which ſhe was pleaſed to ſay, ſurpaſſed her expectation, though ſhe had heard much of the romantic beauties of the cottage. When dinner was ended, the company retired into the drawing-room, and left the ſervants to regale themſelves on the lawn. When every thing was cleared away, the table was again covered with tea and other refreſhments, when her Ladyſhip was agreeably ſurpriſed to find a beautiful Alderney cow cloſe to the marquee, whoſe neck and head was ornamented with ribbon and natural roſes; when her Ladyſhip was

ſeated,

ſeated, the maid began to milk the cow, when Miſs Tudor held the bowl ready mixed for a ſyllabub, of which her Ladyſhip partook, repeatedly expreſſing the pleaſure ſhe felt at the attention that was ſhewn her. Her Ladyſhip having ſignified her wiſh to hear Miſs Tudor ſing, ſhe ſung the following well known paſtoral ballad, accompanying herſelf on the guittar:

" What beauteous ſcenes enchant my ſight,
" How cloſely yonder vine
" Does round that elm's ſtupendous height,
" Its wanton ringlets twine," &c.

Her Ladyſhip then was preparing to depart, but on Mr. and Mrs. Tudor expreſſing a deſire to accompany her part of the way, they all walked to the village, when they took an affectionate leave of each other.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXIX.

THE ARRIVAL OF COLONEL PLAISTOW AND FAMILY AT THE COTTAGE; AN INTERESTING ANECDOTE OF A PROFESSED LIBERTINE; THE CRUELTY OF HIS CONDUCT; INNOCENCE BETRAYED.

ON Mr. and Mrs. Tudor's return back to their peaceful abode, they perceived a coach and four at their gate, which to their great joy they found to be the carriage of their worthy friends, Col. Plaiſtow and his lady, who came accompanied by the Colonel's niece, and his wife's ſiſter. After a moſt affectionate embrace, they were uſhered into the drawing room; and as it was too late in the afternoon to view the environ of the cottage, they were entertained before ſupper with muſic, both vocal and inſtrumental. When the ladies had retired, after

after ſupper, to their apartments, Col. Plaiſtow began to make an apology to Mr. T. for bringing his niece, who was an utter ſtranger to him and Mrs. T. but he obſerved, that as he was lately appointed her guardian, and ſhe being entirely under his protection, he could not think of leaving her at H——, where they had been nearly two months for the benefit of bathing; and he thought it incumbent on him to have her always under his own eye, leſt her very large fortune which was not leſs than forty thouſand pounds, might tempt ſome needy adventurer to make her his prize. This young lady was but eighteen, was tall and elegant, perfectly well bred, had a fine underſtanding, and, to crown all thoſe perfections, poſſeſſed infinite goodneſs of heart: and though ſhe was far from being handſome, yet by her pleaſing addreſs and manner, ſhe captivated every one with whom ſhe converſed. "My particular reaſon," ſaid Col. P. to Mr. Tudor, "for paying you "this viſit uninvited, was not altogether

"to

" to indulge myſelf with that pleaſure I
" ever muſt feel in your ſociety, but
" really to conſult you as a friend, as a
" man of ſenſe, and one who well knows
" the world, in what manner you would
" adviſe me to act, with regard to my
" niece, whoſe happineſs and welfare I
" have ſo much at heart! I quitted my
" houſe at W——, not ſolely for the ſake
" of bathing, but abſolutely to avoid ſo
" much company as were perpetually in-
" troducing themſelves to my acquain-
" tance, which, as I love retirement as
" much as you do, I found inſupport-
" able! Even at church, the pews were
" filled with ſtrange faces to have, I am
" well aſſured, a glance at my niece! If
" ſhe had been a great beauty, I could
" not have had any pretence to be angry
" at the natural ſatisfaction which ariſes
" in the boſom of every young man, on
" contemplating the charms of a fine
" woman, admiration being a tribute that
" is juſtly her due; but when I muſt know
" (as her face is but plain, and her mental

" qualities,

" qualities are only known to her own
" family having been brought up in a
" very retired manner) that it is her
" *fortune* alone which is the *real* object
" they have in view; I proteſt I felt ſo
" ill humoured and diſcompoſed, that I
" did not think my mind was in a proper
" ſtate to offer up my prayers to the
" SUPREME BEING, whilſt agitated by
" worldly affairs! For a long time after
" our arrival at H—, I felt myſelf per-
" fectly at eaſe, and enjoyed my wonted
" tranquillity of mind, when my wife
" came to me one morning with a letter
" in her hand which ſhe had juſt received
" from a relation of hers, who being in-
" formed we were at H— for the bath-
" ing ſeaſon, intended to pay his reſpects
" to us in a few days! As I never had
" ſeen him, I could not be the leaſt
" prejudiced either for or againſt him!
" My wife ſaying he was her ſecond cou-
" ſin convinced me that he was of a good
" family; and continued ſhe, he had a
" very fine fortune, but has nearly run

" it out! That, indeed, began to operate
" with me much in his disfavour, for it
" is a maxim with me, if a man is negli-
" gent of his own affairs, he is not fit to
" be trusted with the concerns of another.
" At length the gentleman made his ap-
" pearance, at which I felt a kind of dis-
" satisfaction, I could not account for,
" nor could I have given any reason why:
" but that having heard he was a spend-
" thrift, I very naturally concluded he
" was a libertine, and that is a character
" I abominate! The man is genteel in
" his person, sensible in his remarks,
" good humoured and pleasant in con-
" versation, and yet I hated him, and
" hated him ten times more, when I
" perceived he paid an assidious court to
" my niece; for having spent his own for-
" tune, I was rather jealous he intended
" my niece the favour of spending *hers*
" likewise: this worked upon my mind
" most confoundedly, and I was deter-
" mined to behave rather cool to him,
" in hopes he would have taken the hint

" and

" and changed his quarters; but on the
" contrary, I was only looked upon as a
" mere cypher: my wife, who always
" had a prodigious partiality towards her
" own relations, was much diſpleaſed at
" my reſerved conduct to my couſin! I
" then ſet before her the ill conſequences
" of introducing an extravagant fellow
" into the company of my niece! But my
" dear wife, who is at bottom a very good
" well meaning woman, only a little too
" much like the reſt of her ſex, addicted
" to have her own way, told me, that my
" niece might do worſe, for he was a
" gentleman by birth, had been well edu-
" cated and reckoned a very good ſcho-
" lar; and though it is true he had been
" rather extravagant, it was only a fa-
" ſhionable vice, and that ſhe would
" anſwer for it, he would be ſoon re-
" claimed by ſo ſenſible and amiable a
" woman as my niece: and as ſhe had ſo
" large a fortune, ſhe did not ſee any
" ſuch very great harm, if they were to
" be attached to each other: in ſhort,

" ſhe made uſe of ſuch a long train of
" arguments, that I had nothing left to
" ſay: but ſtill in ſecret, kept up my
" former opinion! I *now*, plainly per-
" ceive the drift of my wife and her
" ſhrewd ſiſter, who are both determined
" to take their couſin's part againſt me;
" perhaps you will ſay, or at leaſt think,
" that I ſubmit too eaſily; but my dear
" friend, I will ſubmit to any thing for a
" quiet life, for I would much rather quar-
" rel with all the world than with my own
" wife; and if I cannot be maſter without
" ſulky looks, I think it beſt to yield at
" once, than to have any altercation, to
" break in upon my domeſtic comfort!"
When the Colonel had ceaſed ſpeaking,
Mr. Tudor, who had a very great value
for his friend, took him by the hand,
ſaying, " You well know how much I
" eſteem you; and that there is nothing
" in my power, which I would not un-
" dertake to ſerve you; I really pity
" your ſituation, but fear it is the fate of
" moſt married men. Yet, I look upon

" your

" your wife to be a very worthy, good
" woman, and I dare ſay means well;
" but it is no proof of her good under-
" ſtanding, to oppoſe her judgment to
" *your's*. If I were to adviſe you what
" to do, it would be to give the gentle-
" man a hint to quit your houſe whenever
" he entered it without an invitation from
" yourſelf, for I look upon it, that a wife
" has no right whatever to invite any
" man to her houſe without her huſband's
" permiſſion; or know that ſuch an in-
" vitation will be perfectly agreeable to
" him."—" But my dear friend," replied
the Colonel, " I have not yet informed
" *you* that he is already here in the neigh-
" bourhood; for in ſpite of all my ar-
" guments to the contrary, the women
" encouraged him in his wiſhes to ac-
" company us almoſt to your gate, and
" if I had not put a ſtern negative upon
" it, I do not doubt but he would have
" had the effrontery to have introduced
" himſelf to you and your family!" At

this

this Mr. T. was thunderſtruck! "What, ſaid he, "is he in *this* neighbourhood, do "you ſay? Where abouts?"—"In the "village, I preſume," ſaid the Colonel. Mr. Tudor, after muſing for ſome time, not well knowing how to act, told the Colonel, as it grew late, they would conſult upon it the next morning; and bidding each other a good night, ſeparated, each party being determined to conſult his own wife upon the occaſion. What paſſed betwixt the Colonel and *his* wife, with reſpect to the introducing of their couſin, the 'Squire, we are ignorant of, but Mrs. Tudor who thought her huſband never conferred upon her an higher honour than when he was pleaſed to aſk *her* opinion, who in juſtice to her we can vouch, never aſſumed any will of her own, but implicitly, as we think every wife ought, obeyed that of her huſband; having ſtudiouſly adhered to the maxims of our firſt mother, who moſt amiably addreſſes *her* Lord, with ſaying:

"My

" My author and diſpoſer what thou bidſt
" Unargued I obey,
" God is thy law, thou mine,
" To know no more is woman's happieſt knowledge
" And her praiſe!"

She, with her uſual humility, though not wanting in a proper ſpirit towards the reſt of the world, told her huſband that ſhe perfectly coincided with him in opinion; and that the gentleman muſt be a very ill-bred man, and ignorant of propriety, to come into the neighbourhood where he was an utter ſtranger, which muſt *neceſſarily* lay Mr. T. under an obligation to invite him, or elſe it would be the cauſe of a coolneſs between the two families: it was therefore determined, that Mr. T. ſhould ſend an invitation to Mr. Deniſon, for that was his name, to come and breakfaſt with them next morning. This deciſion gave great pleaſure to all the ladies but Mrs. Tudor, who was rather diſguſted at the thoughts of a man who was an utter ſtranger intruding himſelf ſo boldly on their retirement. The

Colonel

Colonel and Mr. Tudor on *their* parts were determined to examine into the merits of the 'Squire, with reſpect to the true ſtate of his finances, manner of life, &c. which was not much in the power of his female couſins to be well acquainted with, and if they had, they were too partially diſpoſed towards him, for any confidence to be placed in whatever they ſaid: for it is a maxim among prudent people never to take a character of any man either from his zealous *friend*, or his bitter *enemy*, as the judgment is ſure to be biaſſed either from diſlike or from being too favourably inclined towards the party. Mr. Tudor, at the Colonel's requeſt, undertook to make enquiries concerning the 'Squire, for which purpoſe he wrote to ſome friends in London, who came from the ſame county where Mr. Deniſon's pretended eſtates lay, and each gave pretty nearly the ſame account, that it was true, he had eſtates in the county of W——, but they were all mortgaged: one of the correſpondents

in

in particular, wrote word that Mr. Denifon was of a very reſpectable family, bred at the Univerſity of Oxford, was eſteemed a very good ſcholar, but was very extravagant, having nearly run out a very good eſtate left him by his father; which was, except a mere trifle, all mortgaged for its full value, that he owed great ſums of money, and was addicted much to gaming! That theſe vices, it was true, were ſuch as were but too common among the young men of the preſent age; but there was a ſtory reported of him, the inhumanity of which was not ſcarcely to be paralleled, even among the moſt profligate libertines; the truth of which the writer could vouch for, as having it from indiſputable authority; but for obvious reaſons, begged to conceal the name of its author. It ſeems, this Denifon courted a young lady of exquiſite beauty and accompliſhments; the ſimplicity of her manners, and modeſty of her deportment, evinced the purity of her mind; in ſhort, her character was ſuch,

as an eloquent counſel once expreſſed himſelf, " that the breath of ſlander could not touch it." Of this lovely, innocent girl, the country 'Squire became enamoured; but as ſhe had but a very ſmall fortune, he did not chuſe to marry her; he therefore employed every art in his power, to have her upon his own terms. It was a long time before he could make any impreſſion on her heart, to his own advantage, but as ſoon as he had aſſured himſelf of her regard, he ſtrove to gain his point, in which he could not ſucceed till he ſolemnly declared he would marry her upon the death of his father; for which purpoſe a bond of marriage was given into her own hands, and upon this ideal ſecurity, ſhe yielded to his ſuit! She was ſome months gone with child, when his father died. She then, to ſave her own and child's honour, reminded him of his promiſe! but to her great aſtoniſhment and diſtreſs, ſhe found he was averſe to the fulfilling of his engagement and doing her that juſtice ſhe had ſo juſt a right to expect!

expect! her complaints and tears had no effect upon him, he not only treated her with cool indifference, but with ſavage cruelty, inſiſting upon it that ſhe ſhould give him up his bond, which ſhe refuſed with a becoming indignation! for though ſhe could not have the leaſt hope of ever being happy with a man who was capable of ſo baſe an act of ingratitude, and whoſe diſpoſition ſhe now too late perceived was likely to cauſe her the utmoſt miſery, yet, as ſhe had it in her power to do herſelf that juſtice which was due to her own honour and reputation, ſhe was determined to force him to a compliance; for which purpoſe ſhe threatened to put herſelf under the protection of the law! Seeing her thus determined, he deſerted her till he heard that ſhe was near lying-in. He then went again, promiſed a ſettlement upon her giving up the bond, but finding ſhe ſtill perſiſted in his doing her juſtice, and refuſing to give up the bond, he threatened her with inſtant death if ſhe refuſed it any longer, at the ſame time

holding his ſword to her breaſt! by this means the v—n obtained his ends!! The poor young lady was left in the moſt deplorable condition; the agony of her mind brought on a premature labour, and thus bereft of honour, and nearly ſubſiſtence, ſhe, in a ſhort time, expired with a broken heart! The poor infant ſoon after ſhared its mother's fate!! This is the monſter, Sir, whoſe character you deſire to learn! Terror and aſtoniſhment ſet on the countenance of the Colonel upon reading the letter! it was ſome time before he had power to ſpeak: and then he ſaid, "Though I do not want for that "courage becoming a man, as well as a "ſoldier, yet I dare not in prudence "ſhew the ſ—l this letter; beſides, it is "written to *you*, my dear friend, in full "confidence that no diſagreeable con-"ſequence might ariſe from divulging "this almoſt unexampled villainy! This "infamous wretch moſt certainly ought "to be made a public example of! But "the law requires *unequivocal proofs!* and "then,

" then, the ſ——l is unfortunately re-
" lated to my wife! A charge of ſuch an
" heinous nature muſt either be kept a
" profound ſecret, or if divulged and
" *proved*, the offender muſt be puniſhed;
" and then again, *how!*—The principal
" witneſs and ſufferer is no more! By
" this means he might make us all ſuffer
" for defamation, whilſt he alone is the
" real criminal! and even ſuppoſe his
" guilt could be plainly proved, ſo as to
" bring him to condign puniſhment, what
" a ſtigma muſt it caſt upon my wife's fa-
" mily, which has already experienced a
" fatal blow from the villainy of one of
" her neareſt relations! No, my dear
" friend, at leaſt for the preſent, let us
" take no notice, or give any ſuſpicion
" that we are made acquainted with this
" fellow's infamy! All I can poſſibly do,
" is to uſe my utmoſt endeavours to
" hinder the match from taking place,
" which my wife has unhappily ſet her
" heart upon accompliſhing, though I
" confeſs I have but little hopes of ſuc-

" ceeding,

" ceeding; as her obſtinacy, in ſome
" points is almoſt unconquerable. My
" reaſons, indeed, if I could truſt her,
" would be ſo ſtrong that they would be
" unanſwerable: but then, for the *honour*
" of her family, (if ſhe ſhould be incre-
" dulous, which is very probable) ſhe
" would perhaps inſiſt upon her couſin's
" character being cleared, ſo that I think,
" at all events, my own happineſs will be
" at ſtake if the matter tranſpires!"——
" My dear friend," replied Mr. Tudor,
" I really feel for you more than words
" can expreſs, and as it is your own af-
" fair, I will not attempt to adviſe you
" to act in any manner contrary to your
" own judgment and inclinations, but I
" proteſt if it were my own caſe, and any
" man was, after being guilty of ſuch
" infamy, to dare enter my houſe, I
" would inſtantly kick him out of it!"—
" but ſtop," ſays the Colonel, " I know
" my dear friend, your true value, I am
" ſenſible there is not a man in the king-
" dom who is poſſeſſed of higher notions

" of

" of true honour than yourſelf, but is a
" man of honour and probity to put his
" own life upon a par with a v——n, that
" deſerves nothing leſs than an halter?"
—" That is true;" ſaid Mr. T. " but no-
" thing ſhall ever withhold me from ex-
" preſſing my juſt indignation of a r—l,
" or whenever I can, holding ſuch a one
" up to public view; to ſcreen a villain,
" is to *connive* at his villainy."—" But,
" my friend," ſaid the Colonel, " Though
" I revere you much for your juſt man-
" ner of thinking, I cannot approve of
" your imprudence in many caſes: I truſt
" from our friendſhip, you will pardon
" my freedom, when I confeſs to you my
" real ſentiments; for, to my own know-
" ledge, you have been a ſufferer more
" than once, by endeavouring to expoſe
" to public cenſure men who the world
" all knew, without your aid, to be con-
" ſummate villains! Have you not ſuf-
" fered in your purſe, and even in the
" opinion of many who *choſe* to ſee things
" in a different light from you? By

" which

" which means you got all the knaves
" and dunces upon your back, who hated
" you, becauſe you was an honeſt man!
" Prudence ſhould be our guide, it is a
" virtue we ſhould practice for our own
" ſakes; I look upon it, three parts in
" four of the world is made up of knaves
" and fools, and therefore it is an un-
" equal combat, to ſet up for a monitor
" and a reprover of vice; you may as
" well think of ſtopping the ebbing or
" flowing of the tide!" " What you
" ſay, my dear Colonel, has certainly
" great truth in it, but ſome allowance
" ought ſurely to be made for a temper,
" ſoured by the ill treatment I have met
" with from mankind; I allow, I am of
" an irritable temper, but why am I ſo?
" the having been unjuſtly treated, has
" altered my real temper, which has
" naturally rouſed me to an open expo-
" ſure of thoſe vices, by which I have
" ſo cruelly ſuffered, both in my per-
" ſon and property. I am well aware
" that I have gained many enemies, but

" tell

" tell me if you can of one truly honeſt
" man who is my enemy ?"—" I am ſen-
" ſible," replied the Colonel, " that no
" good man ever was your enemy, but
" you are to conſider what ſort of beings
" you are obliged to aſſociate with; in
" our profeſſion we are often obliged
" to be connected with thoſe whom we
" cannot but deſpiſe, who, if they are
" ſuperior to you in rank, and inferior
" to you in merit, will hate you from
" mere envy, and will, whenever they
" can, treat you with that inſolence
" which ever accompanies incapacity
" united to arrogance! while thoſe
" who are inferior in point of rank, if
" they ſhould happen to be men of weak
" underſtanding, obſtinate in temper, and
" require being reminded of their duty,
" or chaſtiſed for neglecting it, will ever
" be watching for occaſions to do you
" ſome ſecret injury. I know full well,
" my dear friend, that your foibles ariſe
" chiefly from your virtues; your de-
" teſtation of vice makes you diſcover

" the rogueries of others, which it would
" be more prudent not to detect, eſpe-
" cially, if they be in power or in high
" ſtations, for by doing it, you are ſure
" to have all the little rogues combine
" together againſt you; not that they
" think the great man has been unjuſtly
" cenſured, but becauſe you have en-
" deavoured to explode thoſe vices, that
" they themſelves are guilty of; what
" pains have you taken to diſcover the
" foul play of a ſet of wretches known by
" the name of *Black-legs*, who deſerve
" hanging ten times more than any ſet of
" thieves who are executed at Tyburn!
" How many young men owe their total
" ruin to theſe miſcreants and remorſeleſs
" plunderers, and yet have you been able
" to turn the tide of this horrid vice? a
" vice more pernicious in its conſe-
" quences to ſociety than any other you
" can name! It is true you did ſave
" one young man of faſhion and large
" fortune from the clutches of theſe vo-
" racious harpies, but what then! has

" not

" not this very ſame young man been
" ſince completely done up by the black-
" legs among that claſs who ſit ſecurely,
" ſetting every law of God and man at de-
" fiance?!"—" I confeſs it to be a fault,"
replied Mr. T. " but I cannot act in the
" leaſt degree with diſſimulation; I muſt
" and will ſpeak my ſentiments, and if
" thoſe ſentiments be founded in virtue,
" why ſhould an honeſt man withhold
" them? If I feel conſcious that I think
" and act right, what have I to fear? You
" would have me ſilent leſt I ſhould give
" offence to r———s! But I am above
" the deceitful cunning of half mankind
" to *appear* what *I am not.* I am not
" aſhamed to ſpeak openly in the preſence
" of honeſt men, and I think it much be-
" neath an honeſt man to ſtand in awe or
" fear of either knaves or fools!—" But,"
ſays the Colonel, " why ſpeak all you
" think! There is a wide difference be-
" tween ſaying what we do not think,
" and ſpeaking all we do, if it can in
" the leaſt injure our intereſts!"—" Why,

" I confeſs," ſays Mr. Tudor, " the be-
" ing too open, unleſs one had all honeſt
" men to deal with, is imprudent, but
" the being too cloſe and reſerved is more
" politic than amiable; men often require
" reſpect by having acted with nice cau-
" tion and diſcretion that do not in rea-
" lity poſſeſs one ſocial virtue; and, on
" the other hand, we have ſeen men who
" have poſſeſſed every virtue that can
" adorn humanity, lay themſelves open
" to cenſure from having ventured to de-
" ſcry the villainy of others!" Upon the ladies entering the room, the conver-ſation took another turn, but the internal emotions which the Colonel and Mr. T. felt on the appearance of Mr. Deniſon, they could ſcarcely conceal, particularly Mr. Tudor, whoſe noble ſpirit could but ill brook the being under the leaſt con-ſtraint, and feeling himſelf under an ob-ligation to diſſemble his ſentiments with reſpect to a man, whom he could not look upon but with that degree of horror which every honeſt hearted man muſt na-

turally

turally feel in the preſence of a wretch who was a diſgrace to humanity! Though Mr. T. was deprived of the ſatisfaction of declaring open war againſt his unwelcome gueſt, he, nevertheleſs, would now and then indulge himſelf with a few witty jeſts at the 'Squire's expence, throwing out ſome oblique inſinuations unperceived by the reſt of the company; which Deniſon, who poſſeſſed no ſmall ſhare of penetration, could eaſily perceive, were levelled at him! One evening his chagrin was manifeſt on Mr. Tudor's taking his youngeſt daughter up in his arms, and ſeating her on the table, he faſtened on her head a very fine diamond ring, which having done, he began to play a little courtſhip with her, ſaying, my little dear, now you have the vanity, I ſuppoſe, to imagine that I pay you all this attention for the ſake of yourſelf; but though you are very pretty, I wiſh to undeceive you; it is not you that I admire, but that fine diamond which ſparkles in your hair, that is the thing that I wiſh to poſſeſs;

for.

for, without that jewel, all your little charms would be entirely loſt upon me! In this manner did Mr. Tudor continue till Deniſon looked utterly confuſed, whilſt every one elſe ſeemed to conſider it as a mere joke to pleaſe the child. Mrs. Tudor was likewiſe a little ſmart upon him, on hearing him one day ſay to Miſs Williams, —Well, *Betſey*, the next coat I have, ſhall be ſcarlet, for I know you women have a great partiality for that colour; ending his polite ſpeech with the trite remark of women and macarel, &c. to which Mrs. Tudor obſerved with a ſarcaſtical ſmile, what ſignified a ſcarlet coat without the military air, epaulet and eaſy addreſs, which ſo greatly diſtinguiſhes the gentlemen of the army? He looked as if he felt himſelf deeply cut up! As Mrs. Tudor and Miſs Williams were ſitting together in the arbour one day, Miſs W. aſked Mrs. T. what ſhe thought of Mr. Deniſon? Mrs. T. being no ſtranger to his real character, was rather embarraſſed at the ſuddenneſs of the queſtion, therefore

therefore ſmiling, only replied, that is a queſtion, Madam, I ſhould aſk you, for I ſuppoſe he muſt be a very old friend of yours, and one you have been acquainted with a long time by the great familiarity with which he treats you! Miſs W. had too much ſenſe not to feel this rebuke, as ſhe had ſuffered freedoms which ſhe ought to have reſented from a man who ſhe was obliged to own ſhe had never ſeen but a very few weeks; but who took the liberty of calling her by her Chriſtian name with all that rude familiarity and eaſe he would have done a chamber-maid at an inn! Mrs. T. teſtified much ſurpriſe when ſhe heard that Deniſon was almoſt a ſtranger to her, and ventured to ſay that a lady of her very large fortune, who certainly was intitled to a man of rank, as well as equal fortune, ſhould have permitted ſuch a man as Deniſon to take ſuch liberties! and though he was a very ſenſible man, yet he was very under bred, and had but very little the appearance of a *gentleman*, and as little

of

of addreſs and manners belonging to that character. Miſs W. ſeemed a little confuſed, but ſoon recovering herſelf, replied, with a ſmile, that ſhe did not like him the leſs for his free and eaſy manner, as ſhe thought it was a proof of his good nature and candid diſpoſition, nor did he attempt to conceal from her his having run out his fortune, but told her ingenuouſly that he owed above ten thouſand pounds, and that if ſhe would give him that ſum to pay his debts, he ſhould then become a new man, and would ſettle upon her the reſt of her fortune! "And don't you think," continued ſhe, "that this is a proof of a very gene-
"rous diſpoſition? my aunt thinks alſo
"that he will make a very good huſband,
"and as I have a large fortune, why ſhould
"I not act with generoſity towards a man
"who I really believe has a very great
"regard for me? do not men every day
"marry women without fortunes? and
"why is a woman to act with leſs noble-
"neſs of mind? am I not more likely to

"be

" be happy by laying him under an obli-
" gation to me? and will he not eſteem
" me the more for my diſintereſted man-
" ner of acting?"—" My dear Miſs Wil-
" liams," ſaid Mrs. Tudor, " a woman
" who poſſeſſes ſuch goodneſs of heart,
" and ſuch generous ſentiments, deſerves
" indeed to be truly happy; but you
" have not yet ſeen enough of this man
" to be a judge of his merits. As to his
" temper, it may be an agreeable one;
" but even of that, how can you be quite
" ſure? has he not reaſon to be always
" in good humour whilſt he is in your
" company? and as to his diſpoſition,
" (for *temper* and *diſpoſition* are often very
" oppoſite) by what criterion do you
" judge of it? have you heard of any
" meritorious action wherein he has ſig-
" nalized himſelf? is it a proof of genero-
" ſity that he offers to ſettle all your own
" property upon you, if you will give
" him ten thouſand pounds? if he had
" not made that propoſition, what muſt
" you have thought of his effrontery?

" for I was informed, that he ſaid the
" other evening, when a little elevated
" with wine, that if he did not ſucceed
" in getting *Betſey* for a wife, he certainly
" ſhould put an end to his exiſtence, as
" he was an undone man, and therefore
" it was neceſſary that he ſhould have
" your fortune to enable him to be pre-
" ſerved from ſinking! nor is it im-
" poſſible, my dear Miſs Williams, that
" when he has got it, he may poſſibly be
" led into the ſame train of extravagance
" which was the cauſe of his former ruin;
" and then, it is probable you will have
" too much reaſon to repent of that good
" opinion of which he is now honoured!"
Miſs W. appeared to be deeply penetrated with Mrs. T.'s obſervations, and would no doubt have been benefited by them, if it had not been on the eve of her departure; ſo that it is probable ſhe forgot all Mrs. T.'s advice during the firſt half hour ſhe liſtened to the hypocritical cant of her *falſe* and *pretended* admirer, whoſe adorations were *ſolely* addreſſed

dreſſed to her fortune! if ſhe could but have ſtaid to profit a little more by Mrs. Tudor's advice, ſhe might have eſcaped the pit into which ſhe fell by marrying a libertine deſtitute of principle and honour! for in a few weeks after they left the cottage, Deniſon led his innocent and credulous victim to the altar, took a houſe in London, and made a *magnificent figure!* though they were invited by none but their own relations. This diſplay conſiſted of a ſuperb equipage, the fineſt horſes, rich liveries, the buttons of which were of ſolid ſilver, with the CREST of their maſter engraved on them. Thus he contrived without the credit of keeping any genteel company, to ſquander the greater part of his wife's fortune in a very ſhort time; ſo that they were obliged with a family of young children, to live ſome years on the Continent. On their return to England, they retired to a remote ſituation in Wales, where ſhe repented at leiſure, among the dreary mountains, her weakneſs and unhappy

fate! But this dear amiable woman, amidſt all her ſorrows, has never been known to utter a ſingle reproach to her unworthy huſband, for what ſhe has undergone; but ſhews him the tenderneſs, attention, and reſpect, which is due to the beſt of huſbands. Indeed ſhe is a pattern of conjugal fidelity, and a moſt affectionate mother! in ſhort, ſhe poſſeſſes every virtue and amiable quality that man could deſire in woman; it is therefore to be greatly lamented, that ſhe has not a huſband worthy of ſuch ſuperior excellence! that a woman poſſeſſing ſuch an underſtanding, ſhould have ſuffered her judgment to be ſo warped and impoſed upon, is a ſtrong proof that *reaſon* has nothing to do in the buſineſs of love! moſt certainly, love is not in our own power! for if the tender paſſion could be controuled by *reaſon*, we ſhould not ſee ſo many unhappy and diſproportionate marriages! but it is a duty in us to remind the young reader, *that* love *only* promiſes to produce real happineſs when

it ariſes from eſteem and friendſhip; a very different ſentiment from that which ſprings from paſſion, or is the effect of an over heated imagination, which ſubſides as ſoon as the novelty and tranſitory deluſion vaniſh! if people marry merely for convenience, for *lucre* or ambitious views, what reaſonable happineſs can be expected? Avarice is a more frightful vice than any that can take poſſeſſion of the human mind! thoſe who are addicted to it are ever unfeeling, inſenſible to the wants and misfortunes of their fellow creatures, and conſequently ſtrangers to the moſt rational and exquiſite of all human enjoyments;---thoſe of FRIENDSHIP!

" Friendſhip, the balm and cordial of life;
" Without it, 'tis a load not worth poſſeſſing!"

The character we have given of Deniſon, naturally leads us to make ſimilar obſervations on the mode of educating boys as well as girls, the vices of both proceeding beyond diſpute, from the *ſame* cauſe; namely, a total neglect of their morals, and not being properly inſtructed

ſtructed in the true principles of religion, a ſubject that ought to be made the firſt and principal object of their ſtudy at every ſchool, in *preference* even to claſſical learning, and every other accompliſhment, as the former is of importance to their eternal welfare, while the latter, only regards the conveniences and pleaſures of this life: for though we by no means wiſh to intimate, that learning and accompliſhments are to be neglected, yet they ought only to be a *ſecondary* conſideration! for no qualifications or talents of any kind, let them be ever ſo brilliant, can never compenſate for the want of virtue, true honour, and piety towards God. The ſtudy of the claſſics, the belles lettres, and every ſpecies of polite literature, moſt certainly fit a man for ſociety; but do they completely qualify them to anſwer the great end of their creation? certainly not! at the ſame time, we do not preſume to decry human learning; we know its uſe and are ſenſible of its benefits, but we wiſh to make it ſubſervient

to

to Religion, and to ſee it made the principal object in the Education of youth. It may be ſaid, perhaps, that I reaſon like a woman, who cannot be altogether acquainted with the courſe of inſtruction purſued in the principal ſchools and ſeminaries of our country. To this I anſwer, that it is true I am a woman, but with the experience of a mother; and I may venture to aſſert, without fear of contradiction, that young men when they leave the moſt diſtinguiſhed public ſchools, know more of the Pagan mythology than the Chriſtian Religion; and I may make the ſame obſervation reſpecting the greater part of thoſe who quit the Univerſity, unleſs they have been particularly prepared for the clerical functions.

I have alſo lived long in the world, and theſe pages muſt have long ſince convinced my readers, that I am not without ſome knowledge of its manners and its ways; and I do not merely repeat the dogmas of philoſophy or the doctrines of religion,

religion, when I ſtate the dangers which attend the poſſeſſion of wealth, of honours, and exalted ſtation: my own experience confirms them. I well know the uſes of adverſity; I am not inſenſible to its corrective, meliorating, and ſaving powers. I have long ſince believed it to be a bleſſing in diſguiſe, which often proves man's beſt friend in life, and ſecures to him real and ſolid comfort, when he moſt needs it, on the bed of languiſhing, and in the hour of death.

Theſe reflections have brought to my recollection, the obſervation which Mr. Garrick's diſplay of the beauties and decorations of his Hampton Villa, drew from Dr. Johnſon: David, David, "theſe "are the things which make a death-bed "terrible!——To ſhew that our opinion is not *ſingular* as to the *advantages* of adverſity over proſperity, we will recite a few lines from an author of the firſt eminence, who makes his hero expreſs himſelf thus: "My father deſired me to re-"late the paſſages of my life, which my "uncle

" uncle had told him were manifold and
" ſurpriſing: I recounted the moſt mate-
" rial circumſtances of my fortune, to
" which he liſtened with wonder and at-
" tention, manifeſting from time to time,
" thoſe different emotions which my dif-
" ferent ſituations may be ſuppoſed to
" have raiſed in a parent's breaſt; and
" when my detail was ended, bleſſed God
" for the adverſity I had undergone,
" which he ſaid, enlarged the under-
" ſtanding, improved the heart, ſteeled
" the conſtitution, and qualified a young
" man for all the duties and enjoyments
" of life, much better than any educa-
" tion which affluence could beſtow."
Many are the *advantages* moſt certainly, which we derive from misfortune, which are of importance to us both as to our temporal, as well as ſpiritual good; for by misfortunes we are taught the beſt of all leſſons, viz. to be *acquainted with ourſelves!* beſides one of the greateſt temporal advantages that can accrue to us is, to be *well aſſured*, who are our real friends:

this is an advantage that the rich, the proſperous, and the great can never perfectly aſcertain! health, likewiſe, and vigour, the firſt temporal bleſſings, are more generally the attendants on humble induſtry; for when do we hear of the day-labourer being laid up with the gout, or the peaſant's wife ſinking and fainting with nervous complaints and hyſterics? which is to be preferred, let me aſk, riches and diſeaſe, or poverty and health?

CHAP. XXX.

COL. PLAISTOW TAKES LEAVE OF HIS FRIENDS AT FELIX COTTAGE WITH AN INTENTION OF RETURNING TO H. AND FROM THENCE TO LONDON.

COL. P. having with his family taken leave of the delightful cottage and its happy inhabitants, ſet out for H, where they propoſed ſtaying a few weeks, with

with their children whom they had left there for the benefit of ſea bathing; and then intended to proceed towards the metropolis, at the particular requeſt of Deniſon, who its ſeems had prevailed on the ladies to be of his party to a grand maſquerade, which was to be given at the Opera Houſe by the French Ambaſſador. Col. Plaiſtow did not much reliſh this piece of gallantry in Deniſon, but found himſelf under the neceſſity of complying with the Squire's requeſt, as he found the ladies had engaged themſelves to accept of his offer, and that he had taken upon himſelf the whole expence of lodgings, dreſſes, tickets, &c. which he could very well venture to do on the ſtrength of Miſs Williams's fortune, of which he ſeemed ſo fully *determined* to poſſeſs. Although Mr. Tudor had a moſt affectionate regard for Col. Plaiſtow, he could not but feel rejoiced at being again at full liberty to indulge his taſte for retirement without further interruption. Mrs. Tudor, who preferred the ſociety of her

huſband to all the world, could not refrain from expreſſing likewiſe *her* ſatisfaction on the departure of their gueſts; for though ſhe had always highly reſpected the Col. and his Lady, yet her good opinion of Mrs. P. was rather diminiſhed, ſince ſhe perceived her drift with reſpect to Miſs W. as ſhe could not, Mrs. Tudor obſerved, be ignorant of her couſin Deniſon's character, both as to extravagance and the habits of gaming. Was it fair and honeſt then, ſaid ſhe, to invite that man to her houſe to make a ſacrifice of an innocent and amiable young woman, that he might repair his broken fortune? if, continued Mrs. T. they had accidentally met and become attached to each other, it would have been a very different thing, but there is little doubt that it was a deep-laid ſcheme between Mrs P. and her maiden ſiſter, who moſt likely had a promiſe of being well recompenſed by their needy couſin, for their kind and generous interpoſition in his favour. Mr. T. alſo expreſſed how much he was hurt,

not

not only that ſuch an amiable girl ſhould fall a victim to the avarice of her female relations who he was ſure, from what he had heard Deniſon ſay, would experience his liberality, if he ſucceeded, but that his friend, the Colonel ſhould ſuffer himſelf to be duped by the artifice of his wife and ſiſter in an affair in which it was manifeſt he himſelf ſo greatly diſapproved! Deniſon's unparalleled barbarity to the unfortunate young Lady, who he had ſeduced, and of whoſe death he was the cauſe, ſo rouzed the indignation of Mr. Tudor, that he declared Miſs W. ſhould be informed of every particular which he did not doubt, he ſaid, but would effectually prevent her from falling a prey to a ſet of rapacious relations whoſe aim was not to ſecure *her* happineſs or advantage, but to partake among themſelves the loaves and fiſhes of which ſhe was poſſeſſed! Mrs. T. highly approved her huſband's ſentiments, but cautioned him to act with ſuch diſcretion as not to run any riſque of involving himſelf or others in an affair of

ſuch

ſuch delicacy, which could not be conducted with too much circumſpection.

The ſervant having returned from the village where he had been ſent with letters to the poſt-houſe, brought with him one from Lady D. B. in which her Ladyſhip after expreſſing the ſatisfaction ſhe felt at the very polite and hoſpitable reception ſhe met with at the cottage, begged to remind Mr. Tudor of his promiſe in giving her the refuſal, if ever he choſe to part with that charming abode, which ſhe imagined might be his intention, if he had not altered his mind of going abroad. Mr. T. immediately wrote an anſwer to inform her Ladyſhip, that he continued in the ſame diſpoſition as to his deſire of viſiting the Continent, and aſſured her that nothing could afford him greater pleaſure than her Ladyſhip's becoming the poſſeſſor of his cottage. But though Mr. Tudor aſſured her that he had laid out above ſeven hundred pounds beſides the original purchaſe, her Ladyſhip offered him no more than the ſum of three hundred

dred and fifty pounds, which, however, Mr. Tudor accepted from the very great reſpect he bore her. At the ſame time he was laughed at by the Earl of R. who ſaid that he would have readily given him eight hundred pounds for it, and thought it a good bargain, adding wittily, " I do not know, Tudor, which moſt to " admire, Lady B.'s munificence, or " your very polite aquieſcence!" But, however, the parting with it, coſt Mrs. Tudor many tears, it being the work of her huſband's hands, with whom ſhe had ſpent ſo many happy hours, aſſiſting him in the decorations of it. As ſoon as Mr. Tudor had diſpatched the ſervant with his letter to Lady B. he again renewed the ſubject of Deniſon's inhumanity to the young Lady, and the baſeneſs of his female couſins, who ſeemed bent on the ruin of poor Miſs W. for there was but little chance of its proving otherwiſe, if ſhe were to be unfortunately united to ſuch a man as Deniſon! For a man, ſaid Mr. Tudor, who is capable of barbarity to

one

one woman, can never be expected to treat another with that tenderneſs which is natural for a woman to look for in an huſband! Indeed, added he, I pity her much, poor girl, and I do not think it would be acting as one would be done by, to ſuffer her to fall into ſuch an abyſs of miſery from neglecting to forewarn her of her danger: if ſhe ſuffers herſelf to be miſled after ſuch a warning, ſhe will have no one to blame but herſelf! Mr. Tudor's ſentiments, were the ſentiments of a man of nice honour, united to the tender feelings of a parent who had daughters of his own, and therefore thought it an act of duty whenever he perceived youth and innocence of either ſex, in danger, to endeavour to point out the ſnares which he foreſaw were laid for them! Though this man, ſaid Mr. T. is a good ſcholar, and of a good family, is there any one that more richly deſerves an halter? But how many crimes *do* men daily commit, for which the laws have not hitherto provided puniſhment! ſome

of

of which are of a more dangerous tendency, and more pernicious in their effects, than many of thoſe offences for which men ſuffer at the gallows! The man that robs me of my purſe is hanged! the man who robs me of my daughter, who ruins, betrays, diſhonours and deſerts her, —what!—no puniſhment at all for him, though he has been the cauſe of wretchedneſs to an unhappy family! Nay, he is not ſo much as ſcouted by the men, and we are ſorry, very ſorry to obſerve, from daily experience, that he is not deterred as he ought to be by the women, as too many of them profeſs to admire a man of GALLANTRY! We are authoriſed to ſay this from the many inſtances we could recount within our own knowledge; but we need not go farther back for an example of this folly and depravity in ſome of the ſex to prove the truth of our aſſertion, than by declaring it to be a fact; that the inhumanity and barbarity of the above mentioned Deniſon was made known to Miſs W. previous to her mar-

riage with that unprincipled monſter! The generality of women, however, have the vanity to think that they are poſſeſſed of ſufficient charms to reclaim a libertine; and the ſex in general ſeem to coincide in one opinion, that the reformed rake makes the beſt huſband! but theydo not always recollect that there are various ſorts of libertines.—— For inſtance, a young man who has been led to exceed the bounds of prudence, with reſpect to the faſhionable follies of the day, if he poſſeſs a good underſtanding and a good heart, when the hey-day of youth is over and the paſſions become calm, ſuch a one may ſee his paſt errors in a proper light, and if per chance he ſhould meet with an amiable and virtuous woman, whoſe mental qualifications capacitate her to become the companion of a man of ſenſe, there is more than an equal chance, of their experiencing as much poſſible happineſs as this world can afford! But when a woman falls into the hands of a libertine, whoſe heart is corrupt, who laughs at

Religion,

Religion, who is a gambler and a drunkard, what happineſs can be expected? is ſuch a man capable of friendſhip, affection, or honour? Yet if this very vicious character is poſſeſſed of an handſome perſon, genteel in his addreſs, and can converſe with facility, he may, without any great depth of underſtanding, eaſily captivate a young, unexperienced woman, eſpecially if he really admires her perſon, as he will then be an aſſiduous lover; but alas, her happineſs, if ſhe marries him, will be but of a ſhort duration; for when his ſhort-lived *paſſion* ſubſides, neither her ſenſe or accompliſhments will have any power, to keep him from returning to his former purſuits. A man of a corrupt heart is not capable of a virtuous friendſhip; can a connection founded in ſentiment and affection ſubſiſt, but between perſons who act upon the higheſt principles of virtue and honour?

It may in general be obſerved, that *unprincipled* perſons are always very deceit-

ful; and as truth and honour are in a ſtate of eternal alliance, ſuch perſons as we have deſcribed, muſt be totally ſtrangers to the one or the other; and as ſeduction is the conſequence of deception, we wiſh to ſtrike at the root of that crime by diſcovering its original ſource, which will be the object of the next chapter.

CHAP. XXXI.

THE DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES WHICH OFTEN ARISES FROM NEGLECTING TO CHECK IN TIME THAT PROPENSITY WHICH CHILDREN TOO GENERALLY HAVE, TO TELL LIES, AND PRACTISE THEIR LITTLE DECEPTIONS.

THE greateſt evils oftentimes originate from cauſes, which ſeem ſo very inſignificant in themſelves on a ſuperficial view, that few people will be at the

the pains to conſider the probable *conſequences* ariſing from them. Among the foremoſt of theſe, is the pernicious habit of lying, a vice common with all children, and ſeldom or ever puniſhed as it ought to be in the ſchools of either girls or boys. It is true, the child, at a very early period of its life, tells a lie with no malicious intention, but merely in ſelf defence to avoid being puniſhed for a fault it has committed! but to prevent this growing evil, the beſt method, moſt aſſuredly would be, to pardon the fault, and chaſtiſe the child for telling the lie, and even with careſſes, and a ſmall gratuity, reward it for having told the truth: thus the child is early taught to know, that it is his *intereſt* to be *honeſt*; and every preceptor ought to be reminded, that kindneſs will have more effect, even with the moſt ſtubborn diſpoſitions, than auſterity. This kind of treatment ſeems to be the moſt infallible method of nipping in the bud an evil, which, if let to take deep root, is the cauſe of greater miſchief than can at

firſt be conceived. The progreſs of this vice may be traced thus :—the child tells a lie from fear, and, by ſtedfaſtly denying the charge againſt him, perhaps luckily eſcapes puniſhment; having thus happily ſucceeded, he not only feels delighted at having eſcaped correction, but feels a ſecret pride in having been able to out-wit thoſe who are older and wiſer than himſelf! This, of courſe, ſets the young mind upon inventing lies, either from fun, or malice, againſt ſome of his ſchool-fellows who are innocent, and accordingly ſuffer for a ſuppoſed offence; this is adding cruelty to deceit! A child, by this means, is early practiſed in low cunning, which, by degrees, increaſes and grows ſo habitual, even in ſome when they arrive at maturity, that they ſeem to take a peculiar pleaſure in telling falſehoods, the aim of which is either to make miſchief among their acquaintance, or to gratify the vanity of being thought to poſſeſs ſome hidden ſecrets, known only to themſelves; but whatever motive may incite

incite them, the heart, thus initiated in deceit and impoſition, becomes at laſt ſo depraved and debaſed, that to gain any point they have in view, treachery, fraud, cruelty, and every art that the ſubtlety of a degenerate mind can invent, are put in full force. This art is of peculiar ſervice in the horrid buſineſs of ſeduction! The conſequence of which is, to deſtroy the peace of mind of a too credulous female; and yet it often happens, that the very man who has been guilty of this act of cruelty and injuſtice will have the effrontery to call himſelf, no doubt, a man of HONOUR! that is, he would not venture to advance a falſehood to one of his own ſex, from the fear of having his noſe pulled! nor would the ſame man think of avoiding the payment of a gaming debt, which is ludicrouſly enough called a debt of honour, though, at the ſame time, he ſees nothing diſhonourable in ſwindling all his juſt creditors out of their property! He feels not the leaſt ſhame or remorſe, nor even pity, for the ruin in

which

which he has involved the honeſt tradeſman and his family, who, confiding in his honour, has furniſhed him with every conveniency and even luxury, that he might be enabled to keep up the conſequence of a man of FASHION! If he endeavours to ſeduce the wife or daughter of his friend, and ſhould get rebuked for it, as a man of honour, he cannot put up wit h any affront, but immediately challenges the injured party. Is not this the farce which is carried on every day in the world of faſhion? Now, if principles of true honour were carefully inſtilled into the minds of young men when at ſchool, which is a duty incumbent on the maſters who inſtruct them in all other matters, thoſe falſe notions of honour, ſo prevalent among the generality of faſhionable youngſters, would in a ſhort time be diſcountenanced, and held as they ought to be, and as they *are* by men of virtuous and upright characters, as truly deteſtable! No young man who may read theſe remarks, ſevere as they may be thought,

thought, will venture to say, that they are not just, and founded upon principles of virtue and real honour, though the next moment he may suffer himself to be led into the same train of errors and vices which in his heart he condemns. Such a baneful influence has that tyrant Fashion! and such a power that false shame, which makes them tremble at the ridicule of their profligate companions. There is, without dispute, a great difference to be made between *folly* and *vice*, but folly is too often the *forerunner* of vice! Vanity being a very predominant passion of man, with young people of course, its gratification chiefly lies in external appearance and a love of finery and shew; the aim of which is to attract notice and to command respect and homage from the world, which the *appearance* of *opulence* never fails to create: such respect lasts no longer than their money and pageantry, for when that is over, who will then come forward among the cringing crowd of fawning sycophants to save them from perdi-

tion! But before it comes to that, there is another card to play, which is to endeavour to keep up the fame appearances by living entirely upon credit, or, in other words, on deception. This can, for a while, be eaſily done, by impoſing on the credulity of tradeſmen, who are eaſily taken in by *falſe* appearances, a ſhew of opulence, and an artful and inſinuating addreſs, to truſt their "*ſilver tongued*" cuſtomer with their property! Can any thing evince more ſtrongly a weak head and a corrupt heart, than ſuch a conduct? But, the vice is ſo common, that it may be ſaid to be almoſt *faſhionable!!* Such oſtentation, however, cannot be long ſupported, nor can the deception, beyond a certain period, prove ſucceſsful. The commiſſion of another vice, therefore, is neceſſary to repleniſh the exhauſted finances, and the only reſource is the *gaming table*; which is the laſt ſcene of depravity, and where the heart is fitted for crimes of the deepeſt dye! But this horrid vice not only corrupts

rupts the heart, debaſes the mind, and benumbs ſenſibility, but manifeſtly ſpoils the temper, and *viſibly* alters the countenance! If this vice then is ſo hateful and ſcandalous in men, what muſt we think of *Female Gamblers?* A woman given to this vice muſt know that *her own honour*, or her huſband's fortune, if not both of them, are in danger, if ſhe purſues it. We ſpeak not of card playing, as a private amuſement for innocent paſtime among a few friends, who are not, perhaps, qualified to entertain each other by their converſation, where the conſequences of either loſing or winning, is no great object; but when it proceeds from the predominant paſſion of *Avarice*, and thoſe ſums are riſqued, which may ruin one of the parties, then it is, that it becomes a more odious vice! And as we have already obſerved, if it can thus diſtort and make ſo viſible an alteration on the countenance of a man, what muſt be the effects on the more delicate features of a woman!

An Iriſh lady of great beauty loſt her life at Bath, but a few years ago, intirely owing to this vice! Her boundleſs extravagance was the original cauſe of her commencing *Gentleman*, as a neceſſary reſource to replenish her exhauſted purſe: from being moſt exquiſitely beautiful, with a meekneſs of temper, which rendered her lovely and amiable before, and, for ſome time after her marriage, with a moſt worthy and deſerving man, ſhe became in leſs than four years, hard featured, auſtere, ill-humoured, with eyes bloated from keeping late hours, and a very termagant in temper, which rendered truly wretched, a numerous and lovely offſpring of her unhappy huſband, had by a former wife! This is a fact well known at Bath! but a thouſand inſtances of the ſame kind are to be found daily among the *faſhionable* wives of the preſent age, who ſeem to have thrown aſide that amiable ſoftneſs, and gentle nature which they aſſumed during their virgin ſtate!

Theſe

Theſe reflections on that modeſty which is the moſt faſcinating charm that can adorn the female character, reminds us of Rouſſeau's delightful Apoſtrophe on the ſubject.

" Sweet modeſty, ſupreme pleaſure of love!
" How many charms does a woman loſe, when ſhe
" loſes thee?
" How many, if they knew the power of thy em-
" pire,
" Would be careful to preſerve thee!"

Let this be a leſſon to every lovely bride to keep ſecure her dominion over the man to whom ſhe has given her hand; nor attempt to ſway by any other means. This being a ſubject of ſuch importance to the more lovely of the ſex, we are tempted to quote another very ſenſible writer of our own country, as well adapted to the preſent ſubject. Speaking of women who were fond of walking in their riding dreſſes and great coats with a *coachman's cape*, and affecting a *maſculine* air, he proceeds thus:—

" *Your own apparel wear:* nor hope to charm
" By *manly* airs, which all your power diſarm.

" For

" For female power in female softness lies:
" Sweet smiles, or melting tears and tender sighs.
" Can Fulvia, gambling at the midnight rout,
" Or boldly flourishing in her cloth surtout;
" Or madly giving Britain's tumultuous shout,
" Or whirling o'er the plain her lofty car,
" Fierce as Bellona, rushing to the war;
" Can such bold Amazons with Daphne vie;
" Grace in each motion, Heaven in her eye?
" With flowing vest, and sweet Madonna air,
" Devoutly looking o'er her infant care;
" Who each fleet hour with innocence employs,
" And knows no bliss but in domestic joys;
" When females thus their native charms reforme,
" Extend their views beyond a transient bloom;
" When thus you live attentive to your fame,
" Then men shall boast to call *you by their name*;
" Then beauty on her throne you'll re-instate,
" Whilst crouds of vassals on her nod shall wait,
" And from her smiles, e'en Kings expect their
" fate."

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXII.

MR. TUDOR AND HIS FAMILY TAKE LEAVE OF THEIR DELIGHTFUL COTTAGE. THEY SET OUT FOR LONDON, WHERE THEY PROPOSE TO SPEND A FEW DAYS PREVIOUS TO THEIR GOING TO FRANCE. AN AFFECTING STORY OF TWO YOUNG LADIES.

AS ſoon as Mr. Tudor had obtained leave, through the intereſt of that truly worthy nobleman the Marquis of R. to reſign his military employment in favour of Capt. S. he quitted with regret his ſweet retreat at Felix Cottage, accompanied by Mrs. Tudor and their young family, with an intention of ſpending a few weeks in London, previous to their ſetting out on their intended tour, to the Continent. Mrs. Tudor, upon her arrival in town, waited upon her amiable friend Mrs. Stately, who ſtill retained for her

that

that tender regard and eſteem ſhe had always ſo zealouſly profeſſed. When ſhe was informed of Mrs. Tudor's intentions of viſiting the Continent, ſhe earneſtly intreated her to write often to her, as ſhe ſhould not only be very anxious, ſhe ſaid, to be informed of her health and ſafety, but could wiſh that Mrs T. would be at the pains to favour her now and then with her obſervations on the cuſtoms and manners of France; well knowing, ſhe was pleaſed to ſay, that her veracity was to be depended upon: for though, continued Mrs. Stately, I have read many books of travels, I have reaſon to ſuppoſe that ſome of theſe *travelling writers*, were never nearer to the Continent than in a two pair of ſtairs room in London; and thoſe who really have travelled, ſeem in general to have been more attentive to their literary fame, than to the truth; my reaſon for thinking ſo, has originated from the different accounts that have been given by travelling authors of the ſame places which they have, or *pretended* to have,

have, viſited: and, beſides, it is not merely travelling through a country by which they can learn the manners and cuſtoms in uſe among the firſt claſs of people, unleſs they can be introduced into their ſociety, and partake of thoſe entertainments, which cannot be the lot of but very few travellers. But as you will have an opportunity from your connections here, of being introduced into the faſhionable circles, I do not doubt but I ſhall receive great ſatisfaction from your account; and I am the more anxious to be informed of ſome particulars to which I am totally a ſtranger, having never been abroad: it is poſſible, however, that the account I ſhall receive from you will determine me to viſit Paris, eſpecially if the Ducheſs of R. ſhould continue there next winter, though it is reported that the Duke is to return home, and the Earl of R. appointed ambaſſador in his ſtead. Upon Mrs. Tudor having promiſed to become a punctual correſpondent, the two ladies moſt affectionately embraced each

other, when Mrs. T. reluctantly took her leave. On her return home, ſhe acquainted Mr. Tudor with the converſation which had paſſed between Mrs. Stately and herſelf; when Mr. T. declared he thought Mrs. S. had reaſon for the remark ſhe had made upon the generality of travelling writers; for inſtance, ſaid he, what dependance can any one have upon ſuch a writer as B. who in a letter lately written in Italian to one of his brothers, he calls England the *Sink* of *Europe!* It is, in the firſt place, rather a proof, if he expreſſed his *real* ſentiments that he could have had no other opportunity of knowing the manners and cuſtoms in this country but from what he had experienced in brothels or night cellars, but he knew it to be a falſehood which he has dared to advance, and is a proof of not only a malicious diſpoſition but of the blackeſt ingratitude, as I am confident he has received many marks of friendſhip from very reſpectable characters, one of whom, if I am not miſtaken, ſaved him from being

being in a very diſagreeable ſituation. He likewiſe ſaid, that Sunday in England was a moſt melancholy day; no recreations allowed as in other countries (in that he ſpoke truth) and that during the time of Divine ſervice, there was alſo planted ſpies, to liſten if any one ſwore, or behaved with indecorum. I preſume, ſaid Mr. T. that he alludes to the beadles, who have orders to prevent beggars being in the ſtreets, during church time; but he expreſſes much ſurprize at the great number of ſtreet walkers, who parade, he ſays, up and down the ſtreets, many of whom are not above ten years old! Now every one muſt know that this is very rarely the caſe in England, and at beſt, a very infamous exaggeration.

Another celebrated writer, continued Mr. T. becauſe he was ill, and out of humour with every thing and every body, during his travels through France, was often very unjuſt and illiberal in his remarks, and once declared (though he was ſcarcely able to travel, being in a deep

decline, he, by his menaces and angry looks ſo frightened a French nobleman that he, with the moſt perfect good breeding and condeſcenſion, aſſiſted in tying on his baggage! "Now," ſaid Mr. T. thoſe who are acquainted with the pride and haughtineſs of the French *Nobleſs*, muſt look upon this aſſertion as rather topping the traveller upon us!" At this inſtant, a violent rap at the door announced the approach of ſome viſitors, when in came two ladies, the eldeſt of whom was Mrs. P—n, a lady of a moſt reſpectable character, and for whom Mrs. Tudor had a very great regard; on her entering the room, Mrs. T. ſoon perceived by her countenance and manner that ſhe laboured under ſome very great affliction; the moment ſhe was ſeated, ſhe burſt out in a torrent of tears! at which Mrs. Tudor ſtood mute with aſtoniſhment! When the lady who accompanied her, thus broke ſilence! Ah! Madam, ſaid ſhe, turning to Mrs. Tudor, the laſt time you ſaw my poor friend, ſhe was then happy and

bleſſed

bleſſed in the affections of two daughters, whom ſhe moſt tenderly loved; but alas! the ſcene is ſadly changed, for ſhe is now the moſt miſerable of women! Here the lady ſtopped, being unable to proceed for ſobs and tears, which flowed down her cheeks in great abundance; For God's ſake, madam, ſaid Mrs. Tudor, put me out of this painful ſuſpence; tell me what has been the matter. Has any thing happened to her daughters? has either of them eloped with any one? or what accident, tell me, I pray of you? Neither one or the other; it is ſo bad, that you cannot form the leaſt idea of it! At this, poor Mrs. P. was near fainting away! as ſoon as ſhe was a little recovered, her companion with difficulty reſumed her diſcourſe, and informed Mr. and Mrs. Tudor, that the two Miſs P—'s were in confinement, where they were to remain, 'till they could obtain the king's pardon, on condition of being tranſported, as they had been guilty of felony!: Words cannot deſcribe their amazement,

and

and the ſhock that both Mr. Tudor and his lady felt, on hearing this melancholy account, was ſo ſevere that, for ſome minutes they could only view each other in ſilent ſorrow! At length Mrs. P. was requeſted to retire into the next room, whilſt her companion explained the matter! "With ſorrow I ſpeak it," ſaid ſhe, "the young ladies, the eldeſt of whom "is but nineteen, has been detected in "ſtealing a quantity of very fine lace "which was found out by a piece of "it hanging from the pocket-hole of the "youngeſt: they were then both taken "into an inner room and made to turn "every thing out of their pockets, when "it was diſcovered that both theſe "wretched girls had ſtolen ſome very "valuable lace! The ſhop-keeper imme-"diately ſent for a conſtable, and carried "them before a magiſtrate, when their "mother was ſent for, who requeſted the "juſtice upon her knees that they might "not be committed to priſon; but her "prayer could not be complied with, as

"he

" he was, he ſaid, obliged to conform to
" the duty of his office, although he con-
" feſſed that he was never ſo ſhocked in
" his life, as he then was, on beholding
" two ſuch elegant young ladies in ſo
" terrible a predicament! The poor
" mother offered two thouſand pounds
" bail! and ſome very reſpectable per-
" ſons were ſent for, who anſwered to
" bail them for any ſum, rather than they
" ſhould be ſent to Newgate; therefore,
" all the favour that could be ſhewn was
" to have them ſecurely guarded in a
" lock-up houſe till their tryal comes on!
" and," continued the lady, " Mrs. P. has
" never quitted them; ſhe is permitted
" to be always with them, and would not
" now have been abſent from them, but
" to conſult with Mr. Tudor, whoſe ad-
" vice ſhe much wiſhed for in this un-
" fortunate affair. Great intereſt is mak-
" ing to ſave them from an ignominious
" death, and their fortunes, which is
" above two thouſand pounds apiece, will
" be ſolely applied for that purpoſe, but

" God

"God only knows," ſaid the lady, "how "the matter will end." Mr. T. adviſed the unhappy mother immediately to retain a counſellor, who he particularly recommended to her, as a man of the very firſt abilities! The fee was three hundred pounds, and never were three hundred pounds better employed, for he harangued with great eloquence and with good effect on the unhappy circumſtances of the two young ladies, who were, he obſerved, in all *other* reſpects free from every vice, and even blemiſh; as nothing had appeared againſt them that could in the leaſt tarniſh their reputation: ſome allowance, he ſaid, ſhould be made for their youth, and an over fondneſs for dreſs, by which they were hurried away to commit an action that threatened conſequences of the moſt terrible and diſgraceful nature. However, the young ladies were ſo fortunate as to eſcape, and retired to a convent in the ſouth of France. Though this was the only time they were *detected*, yet the ſhop-keeper declared

clared upon oath, that he had loſt a great quantity of lace many times before, and recollected that the ſame young ladies had been conſtant frequenters of his ſhop, but as they were dreſſed with ſuch elegance, and had ſo much the appearance of ladies of rank and faſhion, he had not the moſt diſtant idea of their having committed the theft. This melancholy ſtory is well known at the weſt end of the metropolis, affords us another occaſion of making a few more comments on the unhappy conſequences of neglecting the morals of youth! But previouſly, as it may be a matter of ſome ſurprize to the reader, that the mother of theſe unfortunate young ladies ſhould have made no enquiries, as to the manner of their being poſſeſſed of ſuch fine lace, as it ſeems they had ſtolen a quantity of very rich Bruſſell's lace, before the fatal detection took place, it will be neceſſary to diſcover the truth, by which it will plainly appear that one vice naturally leads to the commiſſion of another; for having been

indulged in faſhionable follies by the fond mother, who, though ſhe poſſeſſed great goodneſs of heart, had but a mediocrity of underſtanding, permitted them, on their return from boarding-ſchool, to become proficients in that rational and polite accompliſhment, called card playing, which, in a leſs ſoft language, may be denominated gambling! The young ladies having a very handſome allowance for cloaths, had money to ſport with; and whenever they had a good run of luck, their appearance was proportionably brilliant; ſo that it, no doubt, gave the fond mother great pleaſure to find that her daughters by this high bred accompliſhment, could afford themſelves ſome additional elegancies. But when they loſt, which the moſt expert gamblers well know will ſometimes be the caſe, why then, what muſt be done? They did not dare tell their mother, for fear of being prohibited from purſuing their favorite paſtime. There was then but one *other* card to play, which was to commit a theft, to pay a

debt

debt of honour! and having often ſucceeded in this traffic of ſtealing, in order to ſell the ſtolen goods wherewith they might procure the means of paying off their old ſcores, they became more bold, and of courſe more hardened, and leſs cautious, or it might not have been found out ſo ſoon, if at all. The fate of theſe poor unfortunate girls would have been ſevere indeed, if they had not had fortunes to have availed themſelves of every poſſible advantage during their trial. Now theſe young ladies had received the advantage of what is called a fine Education! that is, they were brought up at one of the firſt ſchools in England! They were inſtructed in every polite accompliſhment and all the faſhionable needle-works, but in ſo ſuperficial a manner that they *excelled* in nothing but dancing, which was, next to cards, their favourite amuſement; they generally ſpent the mornings in going to auctions, viſiting and ſhopping! In delineating the characters of theſe unfortunate young women, we fear, we are like-

wiſe drawing a true picture of many more, whoſe educations have been ſimilar to thoſe victims of ignorance, folly and faſhion!

Among the innumerable evils which ariſe in conſequence of the want of integrity, and not adhering ſtrictly to truth, is that kind of deception which is daily practiſed by lovers during courtſhip, which muſt ever prove the ſource of much unhappineſs in the married ſtate; what infinite pains do the betrothed couple take to deceive each other, as if they were laying a deep ſcheme deſignedly to render themſelves hateful to each other after marriage; which muſt inevitably prove to be the caſe, whenever each party grow tired of keeping up the *feigned* character. In the caſe of this double deception, they indeed are both very properly puniſhed for their falſehood! But it is far different where only one of them is the ſufferer. No man or woman can thoroughly judge of the real temper and diſpoſition of the other during courtſhip, when

when they are upon their guard to conduct themſelves with ſuch nice caution that each takes the other for an angel! The concealing likewiſe of natural defects have often cauſed diſguſt, and the moſt rank hatred! whereas, if the truth had been candidly acknowledged, it is poſſible the mind thus prepared might be ſo happily operated upon by an honeſt confeſſion of the truth, as to be rendered perfectly reconciled to a matter which otherwiſe, from diſappointment, vexation, and impoſition, might have terminated unhappily for both!

We knew an inſtance, not many years ago, of a gentleman being in love with a very pretty, modeſt woman who had a wooden leg, having ſuffered amputation from having broken that limb by a fall from her horſe; ſhe contrived it ſo well that no one, except thoſe who were acquainted with the accident, could poſſibly perceive that ſhe had an artificial leg, the foot of which was made to reſemble ſo completely the other, that it

was

was impoſſible to think it was not natural. The day was fixed for their nuptials; the friends of the young lady cautiouſly conceal'd the matter from the knowledge of the lover, a man of very large fortune, as they were fearful if he became acquainted with the circumſtance, that it would break off the match! But the young lady proved herſelf as good as ſhe was fair, and poſſeſſed a mind above being guilty of mean diſſimulation; and as ſhe ſincerely loved him, was fearful of incurring his diſpleaſure; ſhe therefore openly told him the truth. The gentleman ſeemed at firſt a little ſurprized, as he could ſcarcely believe it poſſible that ſhe could have ſo well concealed her having an artificial leg; but he was ſo far from being diſguſted, that his eſteem for her was rather increaſed by this mark of her candour and good ſenſe, for which he had the noble generoſity of ſoul to recompence her by immediately making her his bride, and was ever after a moſt affectionate huſband. What might have been

the

the conſequence of a contrary conduct in the lady may be well conceived by the following fact, which happened but a twelve month ago; this, indeed, did not proceed from concealing a defect, but from having exhibited to all appearance beauties which proved to be only artificial! A young lady juſt upon the verge of matrimony, was at a rout in company with her betrothed ſpouſe; the very large party being collected together, the rooms were ſo very warm that the lady fainted away! upon which the women eagerly flew to her aſſiſtance, and upon looſening her gown to give her more air, out tumbled a pair of beautiful wax breaſts on the floor!! The ladies ſcreamed, though we make no doubt but they ſecretly enjoyed this *public* diſcovery; but what muſt have been the aſtoniſhment of the diſappointed lover; who had been without doubt ſo often *faſcinated* with the beautiful ſnowy boſom of his miſtreſs, which laid artfully half concealed under a tranſparent veil of gauſe, we muſt leave it to the imagination of the reader

to

to conceive; as well as the inexpreſſible mortification of the young lady, upon being thus publicly expoſed, beſides the loſs of her lover, whoſe love and admiration was inſtantly ſucceeded by contempt and diſguſt! Thus was this ſilly young woman deſervedly puniſhed for her unpardonable folly and attempt to deceive a man to whom ſhe was juſt going to be ſolemnly united! But what muſt have been the conſequence if ſhe had carried on this artifice, cheat and wicked *deception* to the Altar. Whilſt women ſport falſe *boſoms*, let them not complain of men poſſeſſing *falſe hearts!* Therefore we wiſh to guard young ladies from endeavouring to impoſe on the man whom they wiſh to marry, if they expect even a ſingle day's happineſs! That every woman may have the ambition to ſet herſelf off to the beſt advantage is all fair and natural; but then, the intended huſband ought to be the laſt man upon earth, from whom the leaſt degree of art ought to be concealed! A candid avowal,

evinces

evinces a mind free from falſehood, which is a beauty far ſuperior to the moſt lovely exterior of nature.

CHAP. XXXIII.

MR. AND MRS. TUDOR LEAVE ENGLAND, WITH AN INTENTION OF RESIDING EITHER IN FRANCE OR ITALY. MRS. TUDOR WRITES TO HER FRIEND MRS. STATELY FROM CALAIS.

MR. Tudor having ſettled his affairs, quitted London, and ſet out on his intended tour to the Continent, accompanied by Mrs. Tudor and his three daughters. As he travelled with his own horſes, they did not get to Dover till the third day; and the next they croſſed the "Invidious ſtraight," and arrived at Calais to dinner, from which place Mrs. Tudor wrote to her friend Mrs. Stately the following epiſtle.—

CALAIS, *Auguſt* 10.

MY DEAR MADAM,

I HAVE now taken up my pen in obedience to your kind injunctions, to inform you of our ſafe arrival at this place; after a delightful paſſage of ſeven hours, we got to the Silver Lion, where we had a moſt excellent dinner, and are now preparing to go to the Comedy, which is expected to be much crowded to ſee the new actreſs, *Mademoiſelle Clairon*, a caſt off miſtreſs of the Prince of CONDE. As the packet does not return to Dover till to-morrow morning, I will not finiſh my letter till after our return from the play, as I may poſſibly have ſomething to add to my epiſtle, which otherwiſe I fear would be dull and *inſipid*. I now ſhall reſume my pen, though it is very late and I am much fatigued, as the Comedy was not over till half paſt ten. The houſe was uncommonly crowded, and the reiterated plaudits of the audience have ſo ſtunned me, that I do not think I ſhall very ſoon recover the ſhock my

ears

ears have ſuſtained; Duke Fitz James's regiment being quartered here, all the officers were there; the orcheſtra being aſſiſted by the military band, added greatly to the entertainment, particularly the French horns, which were the moſt melodious I ever heard! one cannot ſay too much in praiſe of *Mademoiſelle Clairion*; her figure is noble, her face remarkably beautiful, her hair a fine auburn, with eyes that caſt ſuch a radiance, that it is no wonder ſhe captivates all the men! and upon the whole, ſhe has more the look of a woman of faſhion, than any I ever yet ſaw on a French Theatre. In general, the French actreſſes poſſeſs to an extreme, the vivacity, or rather levity, peculiar to their own nation, and ſeldom expreſs much feeling in their moſt tender ſcenes; but Clairion, *au contraire*, ſeems as if ſhe had taken our inimitable Cibber for her model, and the plaintive tone of her voice is not unlike that charming actreſs. But Clairion's pathetic manner of acting, ſo uncommon in a French actreſs, is moſt

probably owing to the preſent ſtate of her mind, as ſhe no doubt muſt feel greatly mortified at having loſt the affection and patronage of ſuch a man as the Prince of Condé! The favourite air of *Ce que je dis*, ſhe ſung divinely, and it was finely accompanied by the flutes and clarionets. I could dwell for ever with deſcribing the charms of this faſcinating comedian, but am ſummoned to ſupper by Mr. Tudor, who unites with me in every ſincere wiſh for your health and happineſs. Believe me, dear Madam,

Affectionately yours, &c.

P. S. I will write again from Paris, but as we travel with our own horſes, we do not expect to get there theſe ten days.

Mr. Tudor then put his two eldeſt daughters in the Benedictine Convent, under the care and protection of that truly pious woman, Mrs. Grey, the Lady Abbeſs, where he propoſed they ſhould remain till they were perfected in the French lan-

guage

guage and other accompliſhments taught at that excellent ſchool. On Mr. and Mrs. Tudor's arrival at Paris, Mrs. Tudor wrote the following letter to her amiable friend, Mrs. Stately.

PARIS, *Sept.* 5.

MY DEAR MADAM,

I HOPE you received the letter I had the honour to write to you from Calais. We did not arrive here till yeſterday. You will not think we have hurried much, to be all this time in travelling only ſeventy-five leagues; but the truth is, Mr. Tudor being a man of obſervation, he will not paſs through any principal town or even village, without ſeeing all the curioſities it affords: beſides, he is very careful not to over fatigue his horſes by long journies. We ſtaid two days at St. Omer's, and ſpent moſt of our time in the cathedral, which is truly a very magnificent ſtructure, and where we enjoyed the ſound of the fineſt toned organ in Europe. It had ſuch an effect

effect upon me, that I am confident, to thoſe who love muſic as we do, its harmonious powers are ſufficient to raiſe to devotion even the ſoul of an atheiſt! As you well know, my dear Madam, that I am an enthuſiaſt in every thing which forcibly ſtrikes my imagination, you will of courſe, make ſome allowances for my deſcriptions being highly coloured! I wiſh moſt ſincerely upon ſome occaſions, that I poſſeſſed that kind of apathy which is the happy lot of ſome who can paſs quietly through life, without being ſuſceptible of either pleaſure or pain! at leaſt, I wiſh to heaven, it had been my caſe, when on the road near this city, we were witneſs to ſuch a melancholy ſcene, as would have ſtruck with ſome degree of horror, the moſt obdurate heart! Believe me, I do not in the leaſt exaggerate the condition in which we ſaw an hundred poor miſerable wretches linked together by a long chain, bare headed, almoſt naked, and half famiſhed, driven by their cruel drivers like ſo many cattle, and

were

were to remain in that horrid ſtate till they arrived at the gallies! for during their long journey they are never unlinked, either to take any reſt or to relieve the neceſſities of nature, but are obliged to ſtay in open air, let the weather be what it may during the time that their hard hearted drivers are refreſhing themſelves at a public houſe; I ſaw ſome of theſe miſerable objects with their feet ſtreaming with blood, owing to the fleſh being torn off by the flint ſtones on the road. As they had travelled a great way, but few of them had even the appearance of ſhoes! their piteous looks made ſo deep an impreſſion both on me and Mr. Tudor, that it has greatly diminiſhed the pleaſure we otherwiſe ſhould have received in travelling through this delightful country, which God has bleſſed, but which man has curſed, by exerciſing ſuch cruelties as the moſt barbarous nations would ſhudder at, and are never guilty of but towards their moſt inveterate enemies. Nevertheleſs, this is reckoned the

moſt

moſt polite country upon the habitable globe, and the ſtandard of TASTE and FASHION throughout Europe! but I find myſelf running headlong into my uſual error of *moralizing*, inſtead of amuſing you with the novelties which this city affords, and to which, as you have never viſited the Continent, you are an entire ſtranger. The cuſtoms and manners are ſo very different from what they are with us, that what a polite Frenchman looks upon as a civility, we are ſo uncouth as to think very rude and diſagreeable. Now, my dear Madam, I muſt inform you, that we had not upon our arrival been but half an hour at our hotel, before a ſervant was ſent by Prince L. Biſhop of S. to know how much the Engliſh Gentleman would take for his horſes? Mr. Tudor, who did not quite underſtand that this was a very great compliment, that his horſes ſhould be worth the notice of a Prince, and being likewiſe rather of an irritable temper, felt it as a kind of inſult, and ſent word back

to his Highneſs, that he was no jockey, and did not deal in horſes, and brought them over for his own convenience, without the leaſt intention of parting with them. One would have thought that this reply would have been ſufficient, but no ſuch thing; a ſecond meſſage was ſent by his Highneſs, deſiring to know the price of the coach-horſes, that he was willing to give whatever the Engliſh Gentleman eſtimated them at, as his Highneſs was in want of ſuch a pair for his cabriolet. At this, Mr. Tudor loſt all patience, and returned for anſwer, that he was an Engliſh Officer and a Gentleman, and did not intend to part with his horſes, and begged that he might not be troubled again upon that ſubject. The Prince took the hint, and finding that the Gentleman was an officer, for no man, let his rank be what it may, is held in the leaſt degree as a Gentleman in France, who is not a military man, ſent an apology, which ſufficiently ſatisfied Mr. Tudor, who had been a little diſcompoſed at the idea

of being thought a dealer in horſe-fleſh: however, many people of very good condition, make a great deal of money, by going to England and bringing over Engliſh horſes for ſale.

This grand point being ſettled, Mr. T. went to the Hotel de Bourbon, to pay his reſpects to Lord R. who was juſt appointed Ambaſſador to the Court of France. In the evening we went to the Boulvards, the diverſions of which you have ſo often heard deſcribed, that I will not enlarge upon the ſubject. Suffice it to ſay, that the crowd was ſo immenſe, that we could neither ride or walk; the coaches of the nobility drive ſlowly backwards and forwards for at leaſt three hours, many of whom ſtop at the booths to refreſh themſelves with ſherbet, ice, cakes, &c. and in every booth there is either acting, ſinging, or dancing, beſides every kind of buffoonery, and it is ſo contrived. that the paſſengers can view the actors as they paſs by, which is the reaſon of ſuch vaſt crowds being aſſembled

bied at that place: but as the people of diſtinction ſeldom go till after ſupper, between eleven and twelve at night, they are not much annoyed by the lower claſs. To morrow we ſhall ſet off for St. Germains en Laye, when we propoſe to viſit the royal palaces of Verſailles, Marli, and Trianon, the latter from the deſcription given us, may be rather ſtyled a royal cottage, in which it ſeems, the King takes more delight than in any of his other palaces, for it is there that he can unbend himſelf and throw aſide, for a while, that heavy load of greatneſs, ſtate, and ceremony, which can afford no ſolid happineſs. At Trianon he allows himſelf the pleaſure of converſing familiarly with his attendants, makes his own little ſoup for which he gathers the herbs, prepares his ſallad, and enters quite into the ſpirit of private life, and therefore has a taſte of that kind of enjoyment to which Princes in general are utter ſtrangers. Domeſtic comforts they ſeldom are acquainted with; ſtate marriages but ſeldom yield that feli-

city which is the happy lot of thoſe in private life, and ſuch, my dear Madam, as I happily experience by my own fire ſide. Adieu, my moſt amiable friend, for the preſent, and when we are fixed to any one point of the compaſs, I will have the pleaſure of informing you; in the mean time,

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

THIRD LETTER TO THE SAME.

ST. GERMAINS EN LAYE,

A THOUSAND thanks, my dear Madam, for your very kind letter, which afforded me a moſt ſincere pleaſure, as it informed me of your having recovered your uſual health and ſpirits; the character you gave me of Sir F——, leaves me no room to doubt but he will prove himſelf worthy of the honour you intend him. I hope he will make you as happy as you deſerve to be, and as I moſt ſincerely wiſh, and atone for the neglect with which you have been treated by him,

him, from whom Providence has ſo happily releaſ d you. Mr. Tudor's firſt intentions were to go to the South of France, and then to ſteer our courſe towards Italy, where we propoſed paſſing the winter, but we have found ſo many inducements to prefer this ſpot, that we have taken a very handſome houſe ready furniſhed, with a large garden well ſtocked with the choiceſt fruit, and moſt delightfully ſituated amidſt a great number of vineyards, and all this for only thirty pounds a year! excellent wine, which is called *vin de paye*, for about three-pence a bottle, and every thing elſe in proportion, except firing, and that article is remarkably dear. A brace of partridges which we had for our ſupper laſt night, coſt fifteen *ſous*, that is about ſeven pence halfpenny Engliſh! I have juſt hired a very genteel ſervant girl, who underſtands cookery as well as ſome of our profeſſed cooks, and I give her no more than three guineas a year. The town is well built, and ſituated cloſe to the foreſt where the

King

King frequently hunts: there are alſo a great many magnificent ſeats cloſe to the town, belonging to the firſt nobility, and a great number of fine walks and avenues, which, during *la belle ſaiſon*, are crowded by people of all ranks, particularly on a Sunday. After ſix o'clock church ſervice being over, you will find all the walks and plots of ground among the trees covered with little detached parties, dreſſed in their gayeſt apparel, ſome playing at cards, others with muſical inſtruments, ſinging, dancing, &c. Among theſe little groups you will not be able to diſcover the leaſt diſcontent, though ſome have ſcarce bread to eat; all their little earnings being laid out on their back: but all is cheerfulneſs, all ſeem to enjoy life, though there are no refreſhments of wine or other liquors as in England, as they never drink in France but at their meals, there is ſcarcely ſuch a thing to be ſeen as a drunken man, and as for a woman getting drunk, I don't believe it ever happens at all; no, not even among the

marine

marine ladies! it would be much more for the credit of our own nation, if we were to copy them in this reſpect, inſtead of imitating their follies, which we ſo exaggerate, that we become in many reſpects the ſubject of their pleaſantry. There is a very agreeable ſociety of Scotch, Iriſh, and Engliſh here, who have apartments in the old Chateau, formerly the reſidence of our unfortunate King James, where I had the happineſs to find out Miſs D——n, (ſiſter to Lord D.) who ſhews us upon all occaſions, the moſt marked attention. We have had the honour through this Lady, of being introduced to the Counteſs de la M——k, one of the higheſt bred and moſt accompliſhed Ladies in France. She lives at a ſmall diſtance from the town, at an elegant villa called *Val*, which was given her as a reſidence during her life, by the late Dauphin, who highly reſpected her. She has very politely given us a general invitation to her *petits ſoupers*, where we found at one we were at a few nights ſince,

many

many perſons of the higheſt rank, among whom were the Prince and Princeſs *de Beauvais*, who are there on a viſit. The Counteſs has had the goodneſs to take me and Mr. Tudor in her coach, accompanied by her brother, the Duke de V—rs, to the Duke de N——l, to whom ſhe is nearly related, when we were introduced to the Ducheſs, who thinks herſelf a very good woman, being a moſt bigotted devotee, and who has ſuffered herſelf to be ſo prieſt ridden, as to have been guilty of ſuch a weakneſs as is ſcarcely credible. What will you think, when I tell you as a real fact, that this poor credulous Lady writes letters to the Virgin Mary? The Confeſſor of the Ducheſs, you may be aſſured is the amanuenſis employed by the Virgin in this buſineſs, and who expreſſes, in her name, great ſatisfaction at having received the donation of two or three hundred livres, to be diſtributed for her ſake to the poor; and as charity covers a multitude of ſins, it is well for them that they can afford to purchaſe at

ſo

ſo eaſy a rate their abſolution, let them be guilty of the moſt atrocious deeds. This is a fact which you may depend upon, as we were told it by Monſieur M. the Duke's private Secretary, who, although he was bred a Catholic, poſſeſſes too much ſenſe to ſwallow tranſubſtantiation. Having met with an Iriſh Abbé at Madam de la M's. who ſeemed to be a very ſenſible man, Mr. Tudor invited him to dine with him: he eagerly accepted of the invitation, well knowing that a good Engliſh dinner was no bad thing; beſides he had been previouſly told that there would be a large ſirloin of beef for the *entreé*, which was a treat ſeldom to be met with in France. After having dined well upon that and ſome other diſhes dreſſed *a-la-mode Angloiſe*, he began to expreſs himſelf to this effect: that he felt much concerned that ſuch a generous, good-natured, and hoſpitable man, ſhould be d——n'd to all eternity! and aviſed him to loſe no time, but immediately turn Catholic, if he had any regard for his

own ſoul! Mr. T. inſtead of following his advice, followed him inſtantly to the ſtreet door, which he deſired the prieſt never to enter at again; this was no ſmall mortification to Monſieur Abbé, who did not much reliſh being deprived of the good cheer of which he hoped he ſhould often partake, though in the company of Heretics! Now after all has been ſaid, if theſe prieſts ſtedfaſtly believed the religion they themſelves profeſſed, and were in reality, what they endeavour to appear, virtuous and good men, one would honour them and even make juſt allowances for the errors and prejudices of education; but the truth is, the bulk of theſe men under the cloak of religion, are guilty of the moſt abominable practices, and of ſeducing more young women both in and out of the convents than the greateſt lay libertines! the confeſſing of young girls has been frequently found big with miſchief; a terrible inſtance of which I will not omit to relate, which we heard

from

from the mouth of a perſon of well known integrity.—

A gentleman travelling into Dauphiné, put up about ſun-ſet at a very pleaſant village; having ſeen that his horſe was taken good care of, he ordered his ſupper at nine o'clock, ſaying he propoſed to walk till it was ready. After ſauntering about the village for an hour, he eſpied at a little diſtance, a fine old monaſtery, towards which he directed his ſteps, and perceiving the gates open he walked in, and after ſatisfying his curioſity, he ſat himſelf down being rather fatigued, in one of the private receſſes of the chapel, where he fell faſt aſleep; at length he awoke, when he found to his great aſtoniſhment, that he was in total darkneſs! he knew that the gates muſt have been ſhut during his nap, and thought if he called to be let out, he might bring himſelf into trouble, he, therefore, determined to ſit contentedly till the morning, when he was ſure the gates would be opened at an early hour.

The only thing he lamented was, the loſs of his ſupper, being exceedingly hungry. However, about midnight, he was much alarmed to ſee two folding doors thrown open and a couple of monks enter, each of them ſupporting a woman who was blindfolded, and who held a wax taper in each hand! they walked very ſlow with great ſolemnity, without ſpeaking one word! The traveller was in the utmoſt conſternation, and much frightened leaſt he ſhould be diſcovered, but luckily for him, they walked to the oppoſite ſide, and then took the tapers out of the woman's hands and ſet them on the ground. They then took up a ſtone, the ſize of a common tomb-ſtone, and ſet it up againſt the wall; he then obſerved that the woman ſunk gradually down till he loſt ſight of her; during this ſcene, the moſt profound ſilence was obſerved. The traveller could not perceive whether ſhe was deſcending into a vault, or in what poſition ſhe was in, but he ſaw the monks lay down the ſtone from whence they had taken it, and

then marched away with a quicker pace than when they entered, ſhutting the doors after them, and leaving the gentleman half dead with fear! As it is no uncommon thing in France to bury nuns alive, who have ſwerved from their vows of chaſtity, he imagined that this young woman was doing penance, or was to be ſtarved to death for ſome crime in a dungeon under-ground, the very thought of which chilled him to the heart, and raiſed in his mind ſuch horrible ideas, that he thought he ſhould not have been able to have ſupported himſelf till morning! but being in the middle of ſummer, daylight ſoon appeared, and in a ſhort time after he heard to his great joy, the gates ſet open, upon which, he took an opportunity of ſtealing off unperceived. As ſoon as his landlord ſaw him enter the inn, he ran up to him with expreſſions of joy to ſee him ſafe returned, as the whole family were much alarmed leſt any accident ſhould have befallen him! The Gentleman then told his hoſt that he had fallen aſleep in the

church

church of the monaſtery, but did not chooſe to diſcover, at that time, the horrid ſcene to which he had been a ſpectator. But the landlord upon hearing the Gentleman name the monaſtery, wept bitterly, and upon being interrogated by the Gentleman as to the cauſe of his being ſo much affected, he told him that he never could think of that place, or hear it named, without bringing to his mind his dear child, who uſed to go there conſtantly to confeſſion, but that the laſt time ſhe went there was, he ſaid, the laſt time he ever ſaw her; he then cried and ſobbed again moſt grievouſly, making the hearts ach of all his hearers, for by this time all the houſehold were aſſembled around him! The Gentleman ſtill thought it but judicious to keep all that he had witneſſed ſecret, till he could meet with a proper perſon to whom he could ſafely divulge it, and only aſked the landlord what enquiries he had made at the monaſtery, concerning his daughter? He anſwered, that he went there himſelf, and found

found many of the monks who had ſeen her enter, when ſhe went to confeſſion, but none of them recollected ſeeing her go out! that he ſent different people in queſt of her for many leagues round, but could hear no tidings of her, and he ſuppoſed, as many others did, that ſhe muſt have either fallen into the river, or that ſhe had been taken away by a banditti that had for ſome time infeſted that part of the country. The traveller then ordered his breakfaſt which he had no ſooner finiſhed, than he walked into the village making enquiry who was the principal people of that diſtrict? And having obtained the neceſſary inſtructions, he went to the *Juge de pays*, who was a very ſenſible man, to whom he related the whole affair, demanding his aſſiſtance in finding out this horrid myſtery, that it might be brought to light! The judge told him, after having liſtened with aſtoniſhment to his ſtory that it ſeemed to him to be a very ſerious, but a delicate affair, and muſt be conſidered with the utmoſt caution, as it might

be

be of fatal conſequence, the giving offence to the holy brotherhood, and would draw down upon them the vengeance of the biſhop himſelf, who was a very rigid man, unleſs the fact could be fully proved, for any enquiries, which could tend to caſt the leaſt degree of reflection on thoſe *holy men*, might be attended with the moſt ſerious conſequences; but he would very willingly go along with him to the Marquis de V——n, who lived about a league off, as he was a very humane man, and greatly eſteemed at Court, and if he found that nobleman was not averſe to aſſiſting them, in ſearching to the bottom, this very extraordinary matter, he would moſt willingly perform his own duty, as *Juge de pays*. They then ſet out immediately on a viſit to the Marquis, who received them with great politeneſs and affability; and after hearing the particulars of this horrid affair, he conſented to go with them to the inn, and hear from the landlord himſelf, the account concerning his loſt daughter. The Marquis then adviſed

viſed the landlord to accompany them to the monaſtery, where they would enquire for the ſuperior, and relate to him what the landlord had ſaid (but ſtill keeping the landlord in the dark, as to the tranſaction, to which the traveller was an eye witneſs.) When they arrived at the monaſtery, the Marquis deſired to ſpeak with the prior, alone, who conducted him into his own apartment, where the Marquis informed him of every thing that he had heard; when the prior immediately gave orders for the judge, traveller and landlord, to be called in, when each party underwent a ſtrict examination, and the unhappy landlord was left no longer in doubt about the fate of his loſt daughter! The prior, who was really a worthy character, expreſſed an equal indignation and aſtoniſhment at what he heard, and ordered immediately the *tocſin** to be rung. This order cauſed great ſurprize among the holy fathers, as that bell was never rung, but to call the

* Alarm bell.

monks together, in caſe of fire, or other very extraordinary occaſions. When they aſſembled, they were all adjourned by the prior, in that part of the monaſtery, where he was informed the traveller had ſeen the laſt of the young woman! He then ordered all the doors and gates to be ſhut, that no ſtrangers might come in or any of the monks go out! The conſternation theſe preparations cauſed, was viſible in the countenance of every one, as they could not but know that it was done with intention to develope ſome dark myſtery! The two who were guilty, could not but feel deeply ſtruck at the idea of the atrocious deed they had juſt committed, but being well aſſured no one was privy to it, and not having the moſt diſtant thought of what was really the fact, they imagined no one but God alone was witneſs to their villainy! But I cannot, my dear Madam, refrain from expreſſing my ſentiments, being firmly of opinion, that it was not accident, but the avenging hand of an offended Deity, which ſo ordained it, that

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it ſhould be diſcovered in the manner it was! The prior, then harrangued the aſtoniſhed monks, and related to them all that he had heard, and then bid the traveller repeat to them what he had ſaid and what he had ſeen. He then ordered the grave-digger to be called, and bring with him his pick-ax, telling him to examine well, to find out the ſtone that had been newly taken up and put down again; this, the grave-digger found to be no difficult taſk, and as ſoon as he had taken it up, the aſtoniſhment and confuſion of the monks is beyond the powers of language to deſcribe! The girl was found dead, lying flat upon her face! But who can attempt to paint the miſery of the wretched father? "Oh my child! my child!" is all he was able to utter; when he inſtantly fainted away! Here let humanity weep! The biſhop was made acquainted with the affair; and the villainous monks were only excommunicated and baniſhed for an offence for which they ought to have been hanged or rather ſuffered the torture! a puniſhment

which criminals ſuffer for offences even of a trivial nature, when compared with this. But becauſe theſe were of a *Religious order* they were ſuffered to eſcape the being brought as a public example, leſt it might prejudice the minds of the ignorant who are taught to believe that they are infinitely ſuperior to the reſt of mankind, and poſſeſs the power of remiſſion or abſolution of ſins. The letting theſe wretches eſcape puniſhment might, for the above reaſon, be politic, but certainly it was not juſt, as their crime was of the deepeſt dye, not only with reſpect to their brutality and unparalleled cruelty, but as hypocrites, who dared to inſult the SUPREME BEING, pretending to be authorized by HIM, to do whatever their wicked inclinations prompted them to! The poor girl, it ſeems, was kept there by the two villains who debauched her; and ſhe proving with child, they were fearful of the conſequences, if they let her go; therefore thought that their diabolical proceedings would

would never be found out, if they put an end to her exiſtence.

Now, madam, you may think it ſtrange that this unfortunate girl ſhould have no ſuſpicion of the harm that was intended her, when they bound a cloth over her eyes, and led her at night, in the manner above-mentioned? but the truth is, the lower claſs of people in France, are the moſt bigotted, ſuperſtitious fanatics, under the ſun (the Spaniards excepted) and ignorant to an extreme, being taught only to implicitly obey the mandates of their prieſts, particularly their confeſſors, in whoſe power they really believe it is to ſave their ſouls! No wonder, therefore, the above poor girl, who knew no creature, perhaps, in the monaſtry, but the two villains who had her faſt in their clutches, ſhould be led to do whatever they bade her; beſides, it is very probable that they had promiſed that ſhe ſhould have her liberty, after having undergone ſome penance they had enjoined her, in order to abſolve her from her ſins. The

girl

girl, moſt certainly, could have had no idea of being put to death, or ſhe could by her cries, have alarmed the whole convent, and being blind-folded, had no idea of what ſhe was going to ſuffer; and the pavement was dropped upon her too ſuddenly, to allow her the power of ſcreaming. In cloſing this ſad ſcene, I will alſo conclude my unconſcionable letter, which muſt have greatly wounded your feelings, as well as wearied your patience; but as you deſire me to ſend you intelligence of every kind, the blame, my dear madam, muſt fall upon yourſelf, if, in obedience to your commands, I ſometimes wander into prolixity. Believe me,

With the moſt perfect eſteem,

Your's, truly,

&c. &c.

FOURTH LETTER TO THE SAME.

PARIS.

YOU will ſay, my dear Madam, that inſtead of ſending you news to contribute to your amuſement, I only ſeek for tales of woe to wound your feelings; for which reaſon I had almoſt come to a reſolution to have ſuppreſſed the following fact, for which the wretches who committed it, have juſtly ſuffered the torture. Horrid to relate; the crime was, ſelling pies made of human fleſh! It ſeems they ſtole little children whenever they had an opportunity; but that not furniſhing them ſufficiently to anſwer their infernal purpoſe, they plundered the graves of thoſe who had been newly buried, and then pickled the fleſh! It was found out by accident in the following manner.—

A woman having bought ſome of theſe pies, which, for the better concealment, were rendered palatable by very high ſeaſoning, put part of one into a cloſet, which, in a couple of days, ſhe found to her great aſtoniſhment, covered with in-

ſects

ſects reſembling lice! But concluding it to be fly-blown, ſhe threw it away without thinking any more of the matter: ſhe, however, ſoon purchaſed another, which ſhe found very good whilſt hot, and having put by a piece of it as before, ſhe diſcovered the next day a number of the ſame kind of inſect, when ſhe ſhewed it to a neighbour, who, on examining it, found they reſembled in all reſpects white lice. The neighbour alſo purchaſed one, and kept it for a few days when there appeared the ſame kind of vermin. It was then ſhewn to one of the faculty who declared that the creatures which were bred in the pye, were neither more or leſs than lice, ſuch as are bred in the human body; as there were no bones in the pye, they were at a loſs to know of what ſort of fleſh it was made, which determined them to go to the ſhop where they had been purchaſed, and examine the maſter, as it was ſuſpected to be the fleſh of cats. They accordingly taxed the paſtry-cook with it, who, of

courſe

courſe, denied the charge; but not receiving that ſatisfaction they ſought for, and perceiving ſome confuſion in the countenance of the cook himſelf, and others of the family, they ſearched every corner of his houſe; and on deſcending into the cellar, they perceived ſome of the earth newly dug up, beneath which they diſcovered a great number of human bones, moſtly thoſe of very young children! The conſternation and amazement of all preſent, on beholding ſuch a ſcene of horror, words cannot deſcribe. Though this is a very uncommon inſtance of ſavageneſs, yet ſome of the lower orders in this country are guilty of very attrocious deeds, ſuch as we never heard of in England, which is greatly owing to a ſtate of extreme poverty, that induces them to undertake any kind of villainy from which they can derive the leaſt emolument. It is melancholy to reflect on ſuch diſtreſs among the inferior claſſes, whilſt the great world are immerſed in luxuries, and give themſelves up to the full enjoyment of

every ſpecies of amuſement and diſſipation, that can contribute to the gratification of their paſſions! It was the unbounded luxury of the nobles and the wretched poverty of the inferior ranks which made that truly great character, Madame de Maintenon, who was ſo worthy of the Diadem ſhe privately wore, remark, "*Que d'argent prodigué pour divertir les courtizans, et ce. Pauvre peuple meurt de faime!*" i. e. "What ſums are prodigally laviſhed for the amuſement of courtiers, while the poor people are dying with hunger!" But it is to be obſerved that Madame de Maintenon was bred in the beſt of all Schools, the SCHOOL of ADVERSITY, and, having known herſelf what it was to want, ſhe felt deeply for the woes of others, which is rarely the caſe with thoſe who are born to ample fortunes, and bred up in the lap of luxury. They ſeldom poſſeſs a proper feeling for their fellow creatures, and the life of gaiety and diſſipation which they lead, allows them but little

little leiſure to think of thoſe who are ſtarving in a garret, ſurrounded by a famiſhed family, and ſuffering extreme indigence! Indeed, my dear and amiable friend, I have been an eye witneſs to ſo much miſery and wretchedneſs among one ſet of beings, and ſo much want of humanity, pride and folly amongſt another, that I begin, though early in life, to have a diſtaſte for every thing but retirement, for I am firmly perſuaded that there is no ſolid happineſs to be found but by being unconnected with the world, and in the converſation of a faithful friend!

In my next, I will relate what Lady A. J. ſays of her mother, which I think is as curious an anecdote as I have ever yet heard! in the mean time

I have the honour to be
With ſincere regard,
Your's, &c.

My ſentiments ſo exactly coincide with thoſe of the above mentioned truly diſtinguiſhed perſon, that I cannot refrain

giving you another quotation. "Thus "it is, I ſee, the world in all its deformity, whilſt the multitude who do not "examine it cloſely, are dazzled with "its *eclat!* I perceive ſuch immoderate "meanneſs, hatred and ambition, on one "ſide, ſuch envy, treachery and dreadful jealouſy on the other, that I am "ſick of the ſhow of this *great nothing!*"

FIFTH LETTER TO THE SAME.

ST. GERMAINS.

MANY thanks, my dear Madam, for your kind letter informing me of the marriage of your amiable relation, whoſe happineſs I know you have ſo much at heart. As ſhe has had the advantage of being ſo frequently with you, ſhe cannot but have profited by your inſtructive converſation and excellent example, to which, if ſhe but continues to adhere, it muſt, I think, be her huſband's fault, if he be not made truly happy. This leads me to repeat what I have ſo often obſerved; if women

women were but to take the ſame pains *after* marriage to *keep* the affections of their huſbands, as they take *before to gain them*, they would not ſo frequently miſs that happineſs which they ſo ardently fought for! Why is it that women ſo little conſider their own domeſtic felicity? Why fly about and be ſo eagerly bent to exhibit themſelves ſo much as they do to public view after marriage? It is but fair and reaſonable that they ſhould both ſee and be ſeen as often as can be done with propriety during their ſingle ſtate, that their perſons, talents, and qualifications, ſhould be known; but when they have made their choice for life, to whom ought they to wiſh to appear amiable and charming but in the eyes of their huſbands? the pleaſant and attractive manners which they practiſed to captivate their huſbands and win their affections is praiſe-worthy and truly laudable, but, in the name of modeſty, I aſk what reaſon can they have conſiſtent with honour, and that fidelity they owe the married ſtate,

to

to try by the ſame means to allure and engage other men to admire them? The conſequences are obvious; and the end generally proves fatal to all the parties! I do not know any thing more dangerous to female virtue, or a greater impropriety in a young *married* woman, than dancing country dances, as it certainly gives an opportunity for a man to ſay thoſe things which would never have entered into his head upon a viſit of form! I heard Mr. M. ſay, who is, you know, himſelf a man of great gallantry, that he could get much better acquainted with a woman by dancing only one evening with her, than he could in three months viſiting her at her own houſe; all reſtraint being then thrown aſide, while a familiarity, both as to converſation and manners, takes place, imperceptibly creating that kind of intimacy which puts an end to all reſpect on one ſide, and a decent reſerve on the other. On the other hand, in dancing a minuet, which is the moſt graceful ſituation wherein a fine woman

can

can ſhew herſelf; ſhe has an opportunity at once of exhibiting her perſon to the higheſt advantage, and of diſplaying her elegant fancy as to dreſs, and this, without loſing one atom of her dignity and modeſt deportment.

I know *your* ſentiments too well, my dear Madam, to be fearful of giving you mine ſo freely on this ſubject; I remember you have often told me, that retirement was your choice, if you had fortunately met with a man of ſenſe and ſentiment, you never ſhould have had the leaſt inclination to have mixed ſo much in the faſhionable world, which never afforded you any ſuperior ſatisfaction, as its converſation in general was very trivial, and as I have heard you ſay, alſo, you had no taſte for cards, that you entered into ſociety more than you wiſhed to have done, becauſe you had miſſed that happineſs which you flattered yourſelf you ſhould have poſſeſſed when you was firſt married. Such a diſappointment made you naturally take a diſtaſte to a home,

that

that was forſaken by the only man who ought to have rendered it comfortable to you! In ſeeking amuſement and recreation abroad, you had undoubtedly the beſt excuſe imaginable; and I cenſure only thoſe ladies who have affectionate huſbands and a young family to inſtruct; for ſuch women, I ſay, to run about in queſt of pleaſure is certainly a moſt grievous folly. Surely, nothing in this world can equal the felicity which is to be found in the ſociety of an huſband whoſe converſation is inſtructive, and whoſe manners are refined; every thing appears to me inſignificant to ſuch a ſtate as I am fortunately able to deſcribe? But I find, my dear Madam, I am ſpinning out my letter to an unconſcionable length, and have ſcarcely left room to tell you the curious anecdote which I promiſed you in my laſt, of the Counteſs of S. I cannot ſay that I am in the leaſt ſurprized at any thing her Ladyſhip does, let it be ever ſo extravagant or profligate. It ſeems a man of the name of G. has taken an

houſe

houſe in Pall-mall for the convenience of women of rank and fortune, who wiſh to be concealed, whilſt they are in a ſituation in which married women ought to be found. It likewiſe ſeems that the Counteſs went to this man's houſe, in order to conſult him on the ſubject of her ſuppoſed pregnancy: but as he wiſhed her not to rely entirely on his opinion, he adviſed her to call in Dr. H. who, upon ſimilar occaſions ſhe uſed to conſult, at her own houſe! The doctor, therefore, expreſſed much ſurprize to the Counteſs, that, being a married woman, ſhe could have any reaſon for lying-in privately; but her ladyſhip informed him, that ſhe did not wiſh any of her family to know that ſhe even conſulted him, as it would create a ſuſpicion that ſhe was with child; and if that were the caſe, ſhe had good reaſon ſhe ſaid, to prevent its being known! The doctor ſtill amazed at what he very juſtly conſidered as an abſurdity, very naturally replied, "and ſuppoſe your "Ladyſhip is pregnant, what miſchief can

" poſſibly reſult from it ?"—" If I ſhould " be ſo, anſwered her Ladyſhip, I cer- " tainly ſhall go to the Continent, 'till it " is all over; for, to tell you the truth, " my dear Doctor, I am rather dubious " as to the *colour !!*" Whenever her Ladyſhip walks out, ſhe is generally attended by her black ſervant who is, Lady A. tells me, remarkably handſome! Lady A. has been ſo ill treated by her mother that ſhe takes no pains to conceal her foibles, or rather vices, and has no objection to my acquainting you with the above circumſtance! Indeed, when women are ſo abandoned and loſt to ſhame, they ought to be held out as examples to be ſhunned and execrated, and treated with that contempt they juſtly merit! But thoſe who countenance ſuch as have been guilty of ſimilar crimes, merely on account of their high rank and fortune, ought to be held, at leaſt, in equal contempt.

To-morrow evening we have an invitation to ſup with Madame de la M—k

it

it being her *name day*, it will be kept, I am told, with great magnificence: but as this cuſtom is peculiar to the French nation, you, perhaps, Madam, may not comprehend what is meant by it. Every catholic has a patron Saint to whom they offer up their prayers, and as the Counteſs's Chriſtian name is Ann, it is to the Saint of that name that ſhe devotes herſelf; and as the *fêtes* or holydays are named after ſome Saint, thoſe who are chriſtened after their names, always keep the day with as much ceremony, as we do our birth days.

Adieu, my dear Madam, &c.

P. S. I am almoſt aſhamed to add a Poſtſcript to my letter, which is already too long, but I cannot reſiſt the ſatisfaction of telling you, that we ſupped laſt night at the Counteſs de la M—k's, and that previous to our going into the *ſalle a manger*, I had the pleaſure of diſplacing the Ducheſs de G——t's work-bag, which I did rather ſaucily, ariſing from anger,

as well as to ſhew the noble viſitant my own conſequence! for, on my *entreé* into the room, I was very politely received by the Counteſs, but not finding a chair ready put for me near the circle, and perceiving one vacant cloſe to *Madame la Ducheſſe*, I was rather nettled, and *ſans ceremonie* moved the richly embroidered work-bag which was upon it to a corner of the ſettee, on which ſat the Duke d'A—g; I then placed myſelf on the ſaid chair, at which the Ducheſs ſeemed *un peu piqué*, but did not ſay a word! all my fear was, leſt ſhe ſhould conſtrue this little *manœuvre* of mine into ignorance and not knowing what was right! This idea haunted me, and alarmed my pride, and that ſhe might perfectly *comprehend* me, I took care to continue very haughty the whole evening; but before I departed, I informed Miſs D——n, who was one of the party, why I was out of humour, ſaying, I would never put up with the leaſt ſlight from any of the nobility of my own country, much leſs would I from thoſe of another!

another! When the Counteſs was informed how much I felt piqued at there being no chair put for me, an apology was made the very next morning, which was very politely conveyed to me by that worthy good man, the learned Abbé N——m. He aſſured me that it was entirely owing to the neglect of the ſervant, &c. but I have reaſon to believe, from this well timed *hauteur*, I ſhall not have any reaſon to complain of any future omiſſion whatever.

SIXTH LETTER TO THE SAME.

ST. GERMAINS.

AS I informed you, my dear Madam, in my laſt, that we had received an invitation from the Counteſs de la M———k to dine with her upon her name-day, you will expect to be made acquainted with the manner in which the entertainment was conducted. All the company who were invited being aſſembled in the grand ſaloon, we waited about an hour before the Counteſs came from

from maſs, where ſhe never omits to go once or twice a day. It ſeems theſe fits of devotion laſt for three months together; but that is no very extraordinary thing with theſe devoteés, who frequently do ſevere penance for a certain length of time, and then indulge themſelves with following their inclinations till their confeſſor thinks it *prudent* to give a check to their levities, by which means they are puniſhed and indulged alternately, to the no ſmall advantage of the cunning prieſt. Many of the gueſts were of the higheſt rank; among the noble groupe were the Ducheſs de Brancas, *dame d' honneur* to the Queen; the Prince and Princeſs de Beauvais, the duke de Villars, the Ducheſs de Gramont, who looked at me with rather an unfavourable eye, for my late rudeneſs to her work-bag; there were alſo four or five Iriſh Abbés accompanied by the Prior of St. Germains, who is the handſomeſt Frenchman I ever ſaw, except the Count de la M———k. But among the Abbés, I muſt not forget to mention

mention the worthy and learned Needham.

Soon after the Counteſs entered the room and had received the compliments due to the day, the Count, her huſband, was announced, who was juſt returned from Paris, where he lived both winter and ſummer, ſeldom viſiting his Counteſs but upon great occaſions. After a polite embrace, the Counteſs introduced him to her gueſts; he then preſented the Counteſs with a noſegay, from his own boſom, and alſo a magnificent ſnuff box, ſet with diamonds. Every one of the viſitors then followed his example, each preſenting ſome elegant trinkets, with which they had provided themſelves, as is the uſual cuſtom on this occaſion; among which number, I had the honour to preſent to her, a very fine enamelled miniature, ſet in gold, of an Engliſh lady of quality, exquiſitely painted in the habit of a nun. Mr. Tudor's gift was a beautiful ſeal, blood ſtone, ſet in gold, with a Jeſus on the Croſs; the red ſpots

on

on the ſtone repreſenting the blood iſſuing from the wounds; this preſent was the moſt admired of all that had been given. This ceremony over, two folding doors were thrown open, into the dining hall, where there was a moſt magnificent banquet, to which, each lady was handed in by a gentleman, who took their ſeats according to precedence; and what added greatly to the pleaſure of the feaſt was, an excellent band of wind muſic, placed on the lawn, cloſe to the windows of the room. The elegance and eaſe, with which a French dinner or ſupper is conducted, is much more agreeable than with us in England; where the lady of the houſe never helps any of her gueſts, but to the firſt diſh which is ſet before her, leaving the ladies to the care of the gentlemen, who are ſeated next them. They never change their knives and forks, only the plates. Every one has a glaſs *ſeau* ſet next them, in which the wine glaſs is inverted, and alſo two ſmall decanters, one with water and the other with Burgundy.

After

After the ſecond courſe was removed, there was a very ſuperb deſert, conſiſting of all the fineſt fruits in great abundance, and a dozen plates of ice cream of different forms and colour; a beautiful large red and green parrot in blanc-manger, and alſo a cardinal's hat; the Boulvards of Paris were repreſented in paſtry and ſweetmeats, and a variety of other devices; but the middle diſh conſiſted of at leaſt fifty peaches in the form of a pyramid, from which the Count preſented one to each of his gueſts; and I was rather ſurprized to find that he cautiouſly picked out all the ſmaller peaches, leaving the largeſt and apparently the fineſt in the diſh. He then propoſed drinking the health of his Counteſs, when every one was helped to a glaſs of Champagne, when there appeared a moſt beautiful diſplay of fire-works iſſuing from the large peaches, which we then found to be artificial; this, indeed, was truly elegant, and greatly ſurprized many of the company, particularly us Engliſh, having no

idea of this beautiful deception, which was, it ſeems, a piece of gallantry in the Count, who brought them with him from Paris; nor did even the Counteſs know of it till the very moment they were played off; at the ſame time a battery of ſmall cannon were fired on the lawn, when the air re-echoed with the tumultuous joy of the ſurrounding multitude, who were permitted to be ſpectators, as they had a very good view of what paſſed in the dining-hall, the windows being all ſet open for that purpoſe.

When the dinner was ended, which was not till ten o'clock at night, the company *all* ſtood up, turning their backs from the table, when each was waited upon by a ſervant holding, upon a ſilver ſalver, large water glaſſes with a napkin on his arm, which I think far more delicate than our cuſtom of waſhing at table. The ladies were then handed by the gentlemen into the drawing-room, as they never ſtay to drink after the ladies riſe from table. From thence we followed the Counteſs

into

into the muſic room, when ſhe ſeated herſelf at the harpſichord, upon which ſhe played remarkably well, accompanied by a number of the firſt muſicians from Paris, as well as many of her gueſts who followed her example, each taking up the muſical inſtrument on which they excelled. Among the reſt were two young ladies from Verſailles who came with their father, mother and muſic maſter, which was a very great favour, as they never performed but to the King and Queen. One of the young ladies was exquiſitely beautiful, and played charmingly on the treble harp, and her ſiſter performed equally well on the violin; when they ſung, their maſter likewiſe accompanied them with great judgment with his voice, which was a fine tenor, but ſo ſoftly as not to *diſplay himſelf*, but to exhibit their performance to the beſt advantage. This was not only polite but judicious. But a little paſt twelve the company began to withdraw, and the evening was concluded with the greateſt ſatisfaction to all parties.

On the carriages of all the gueſts fire-works were fixed, which kept playing off as they went through the foreſt on their return home; and guns were fired for a conſiderable time which re-echoed through the woods, till we had got to the end of it. To morrow I ſhall accompany Mr. T. to Paris, as we have received an invitation to dine with the Earl and Counteſs of R. On my return home to St. Germains, I ſhall, perhaps, add a few more lines to my letter, if any thing ſhould occur which I may imagine worthy of your attention.

P. S. Now, my dear Madam, you muſt prepare yourſelf for a long Poſtſcript, for as I was folding up my letter, who ſhould come in but Mr. F. G.! one of the moſt eccentric characters you, perhaps, ever heard of; indeed, he is, as *Montaigne* ſays, a downright compound! He is perfectly well bred, very ſenſible, and remarkably entertaining in converſation, and really appears a good tempered man, though his conduct

conduct has frequently given occaſion for a contrary opinion.

A few years ago, being at a tavern in London, a gentleman, who had the appearance of a naval officer came in, who, after eyeing F. G. in rather a contemptuous manner, ſaid, he ſmelt an Iriſhman; "Do you," ſays F. G. "then by G—d I "will ſpoil your ſmelling;" at the ſame time he whipt a penknife out of his pocket with which he cut off the man's noſe! then telling his name and where he lived, ſaid, in a very compoſed manner, that he was ready to give him ſatisfaction whenever he pleaſed to call upon him! but the unfortunate *noſeleſs* man being, it ſeemed, obliged to go to his ſhip at Portſmouth the next day, which was to ſet ſail for Jamaica, he had only time to get a plaiſter. Though the provocation was certainly very great, yet nothing can I think, be ſaid, in the leaſt vindication of F. G. for his brutal repriſal. But according to the notions of duelliſts, he certainly was a man of honour, for hearing

of

of the officer's return to Southampton, two years after, F. G. took a poſtchaiſe, and immediately on his arrival there aſked for the officer who was at the hotel with a large company, and hearing that he was enquired for, came down ſtairs; but not recollecting the perſon, he deſired him to walk into the parlour and acquaint him with his buſineſs; to which F. G. replied, he came on purpoſe from London to give him ſatisfaction! The officer could not but expreſs the greateſt aſtoniſhment till the other had fully explained himſelf; but inſtead of accepting of his propoſition to fight, he moſt generouſly took him by the arm, and introduced him to his brother officers, telling them the whole ſtory. They were all equally ſurprized, and did not know which moſt to admire, the ready forgiveneſs of the injured party, or the honour of the aggreſſor! but both being ſincerely reconciled to each other, they ever after continued good friends.

This

This very eccentric character was a very good huſband, and moſt doatingly fond of his wife, which the following fact related of him will evince. Being on the Continent with his wife, ſhe was taken extremely ill, and died on the road ſomewhere in the South of France. When ſhe found her diſſolution approaching, ſhe made him promiſe to convey her corpſe to England, where ſhe was very deſirous of being buried. Accordingly he hired an additional man ſervant and travelled with the coffin fixed upon the top of the chaiſe. One evening ſtopping at a village where he found but one indifferent inn, he aſked what accommodation he could have? they anſwered, that they had but one room below ſtairs, their beſt room being occupied above by ſome ſtrangers, and that there was no other proviſion in the houſe than ſome eggs and meat that was freſh killed. As it was rather too late to think of purſuing his journey any further that night, he ordered his men to bring the coffin into

into the apartment allotted for him: after which, he walked into the kitchen, where he ſaw a couple of fine fowls roaſting, when he demanded of the inn-keeper his reaſon for telling him that there was nothing for his ſupper than eggs, at the ſame time he was dreſſing ſo good a ſupper? Ah, Sir, ſaid the hoſt, that's true, but I am very ſorry it is not in my power to let you have any part of it, as it is beſpoke by the company above ſtairs. —Pray then, ſaid F. G. be ſo good as to go to the Gentlemen and tell them, that an Engliſh Gentleman preſents his reſpects to them, and will eſteem it as a particular favour if they will have the goodneſs to let him have half of one of the fowls, as he is come in very hungry and much fatigued after his journey, for which he is ready to pay whatever may be required. The meſſage was punctually delivered, but the Frenchmen, who are all to a man, good *œconomiſts*, would not part with a morſel, but after a long conſultation among themſelves, it was propoſed, that

if

if the Engliſhman would favour them with his company, he ſhould be very welcome to partake of their ſupper.— Thanks being returned, and the invitation accepted, F. G. deſired his hoſt to let him know when ſupper was carried in. When he was informed that the ſupper was upon table, he ordered his ſervants to follow him with the coffin. On his entering the room many compliments paſſed on each ſide, when the Frenchmen proteſted how truly happy they were, at having ſo favourable an occaſion of ſhewing their reſpect to an Engliſh Gentleman, and many more fine ſpeeches to the ſame effect; when, to their utter aſtoniſhment, they ſaw two men enter with the coffin upon their ſhoulders, and ſet it down on the floor cloſe to their maſter; the terror, conſternation, and confuſion of the Frenchmen, are beyond the power of language to expreſs! and rendered them almoſt motionleſs, which F. G. perceiving, he ſaid, I return you, Gentlemen, my grateful thanks for your kind invita-

tion to ſup with you, and beg pardon for not acquainting you that my wife muſt be alſo of the party; for as ſhe was when alive, my conſtant companion, nothing ſhall ever ſeparate us whilſt ſhe remains above ground: the Frenchmen who were by this time a little recovered from their fright, began to ſet upon F. G. in a furious manner, firſt ordering the coffin bearers to take it out of the room, which the men, who were afraid of the numbers againſt them, were juſt complying with, when F. G. drew his hanger, and ſwore that he would cut up the firſt man who ſhould attempt to remove the corpſe of his dear wife: the reſolute tone and manner in which he ſpoke, ſo terrified them, that they all ſcampered away as faſt as their fears could take them, and left the victorious F. G. in quiet poſſeſſion of both the room and ſupper, to the great mortification of the *Monſieurs*, who never had, I ſuppoſe, experienced ſo extraordinary an inſtance of *Engliſh liberty* in their lives!

Adieu,

Adieu, my dear Madam, and pardon my frequent intruſions on your time and patience.

SEVENTH LETTER TO THE SAME.

ST. GERMAINS EN LAYE.

MY DEAR MADAM,

WE are juſt returned from Paris, where we ſtayed a week, on purpoſe to indulge ourſelves with the pleaſure of the Opera and Comedies, which we attended every evening, while we paſſed the mornings in viewing every thing worthy of notice in that city. The greateſt curioſity of all was, a moſt ingenious repreſentation of a woman as large as life, and made in wax and ſilk; there never was but one more of the ſame kind, and that was made by the ſame artiſt, a Lady, who is as much reſpected for her many amiable qualities, as ſhe is admired for her ſuperior ingenuity. She ſold the firſt to the Empreſs of Ruſſia, for which ſhe received a thouſand pounds; indeed it

was not too much, when we conſider the labour, pains, and length of time it employed to make it; and it is allowed by thoſe who are judges of anatomy, to be a moſt highly finiſhed piece of art. The figure is laid at full length, and covered with a blue ſilk drapery in a box lined with white ſatin. The artiſt firſt ſeparated all the pieces in the following manner: She took off a moſt beautiful wax face that diſcovered the ſkull, which being opened, ſhe diſſected according to anatomical art, all the interior parts. The bones were human, and the fleſh was made of wax to reſemble nature; the heart, liver, and bowels, &c. were all made of bladders covered with the thinneſt ſilk; and in ſhort every other part of the body was conſtructed in the ſame curious manner; the whole took up nearly two hours to examine it, and I ſhould ſuppoſe it would take pretty near the ſame time to put it together again.

When we laſt dined at Lord R's. he preſented to us his natural daughter, a moſt

moſt beautiful girl of ſeven or eight years old, and what gave me great pleaſure was, to ſee Lady R. treat her with as much kindneſs and affection as if ſhe had been her own child; ſuch an amiable conduct, could not but endear her greatly to her Lord, who has a very high eſteem for her, though I believe his Lordſhip does not ſcruple to pay his devoirs occaſionally to the Parisian belles. Both Lord and Lady R. have moſt obligingly promiſed to partake of a repaſt with us at St. Germains, but, previous to this viſit, and in the courſe of next week, her Excellency is to go through the ceremony of receiving her firſt audience of the Queen and Royal Family at Verſailles. She has politely invited Mr. Tudor to make one in her ſuite. There are a great many Engliſh of faſhion now at Paris, ſo I make no doubt but her Excellency will be well attended. Mr. Tudor has this moment prohibited me from ſending off my letter till after the preſentation is over.

I now,

I now, Madam, with pleaſure reſume my pen, to inform you in what manner Lady R. was preſented to the Queen, which ceremony was performed yeſterday in the following order :—Ten or twelve footmen preceded their Excellencies carriage, walking two and two, dreſſed in ſcarlet liveries richly laced with gold; the Engliſh Nobility following in their carriages according to precedence; among whom was the newly created Duke of N——d, who was moſt magnificently apparelled with a profuſion of diamonds, and diſplayed upon this occaſion his diamond ſtar and garter. When the cavalcade arrived at Verſailles, Lady R. was handed out of her carriage by her Lord. When her Excellency came to the door of the Queen's apartment, ſhe was received by the Ducheſs de Brancas, Lady of the Bedchamber, and was by her conducted to her Majeſty, who received the Ambaſſadreſs under a rich canopy of ſtate, a ſtool was placed oppoſite the Queen, whereon her Ladyſhip ſat during her audience. All the

Engliſh,

Engliſh, forming an half circle, ſtood behind her Excellency. Her Grace of N. was not of the party, as her Grace thought it inconſiſtent with her own dignity to ſtand, whilſt the Ambaſſadreſs ſat, who was her inferior as to rank, and one of whom ſhe took precedence at her own Court. Two doors were then thrown ſuddenly open, when in an audible voice was announced LE ROY. The King immediately appeared, and having paid his compliments to the Queen, addreſſed himſelf to the Ambaſſadreſs, and ſoon after her Excellency withdrew; when ſhe was conducted to the apartments of Madame la Dauphine and the reſt of the Royal Family. The whole ceremony was conducted in all reſpects ſuitable to the dignity of the occaſion. A moſt noble and ſumptuous dinner was provided in the palace for the Ambaſſadreſs and her company; there were two tables; that at which her Excellency ſat, was illuminated with upwards of ſixty wax lights, independent of the luſtres, which were exceedingly magni-

magnificent, being entirely compoſed of cryſtal, and the deſert, Mr. Tudor informs me, was the moſt ſplendid he ever ſaw. It will without doubt, Madam, appear ſtrange to you, that the dinner and deſert were brought in by a regiment of whiſkered Swiſs ſoldiers, and all the ſervants ſtood behind their Ladies with their hats on! but what ſurpriſed Mr. T. ſtill more, was four dirty boys, which upon enquiry, were found to be aſſiſtants in the kitchen, ſtanding directly oppoſite to the Ambaſſadreſs and the Ducheſs de Choiſeul, who that day preſided at the table, with night-caps on, that no time, he ſaid, could have rendered more filthy, while their aprons and other garments were equally obnoxious! but this mixture of dirt and magnificence is not uncommon in France, a few ſpecimens of which I will give you in a future letter. I muſt not omit, however, to mention, that all the Engliſh Gentlemen were preſented to the King in an adjacent chamber, ſeated on a throne of ſtate, by the

Engliſh

Engliſh Ambaſſador, who announced each in their turn, according to their rank and quality, &c. but there was no kneeling or kiſſing of hands as with us. Mr. Tudor was very well pleaſed with this part of the ceremony, as it will enable him, by that means, to hunt in the foreſt with the King: no one being allowed that liberty, but thoſe who have been properly preſented. He ſays, that the King is a remarkably handſome man, between fifty and ſixty, has fine black piercing eyes and a Roman noſe; is perfectly well bred and affable, and ſpends moſt of his time on horſeback. He intends ſhortly to review ſix troops of life guards, who are to be richly cloathed in blue and ſilver; it will be a grand ſight, at which I ſhall endeavour to be a ſpectator. With every ſincere wiſh for your health and happineſs, believe me

affectionately your's, &c.

EIGHTH LETTER TO THE SAME.

ST. GERMAINS.

MY DEAR MADAM,

JUST as we were preparing to leave Paris the other day, on our return to this place, we met with Lady N——t, and her brother the Chevalier R———d, who, with a party of their Engliſh acquaintance, were going to Verſailles, and politely aſked us to accompany them to view the curioſities of that magnificent palace. Nothing can exceed the ſplendor of the apartments, and the magnificence of the gardens. They, however, diſplay more art than nature. The prodigious number of fine ſtatues with which the gardens are decorated, without doubt, add greatly to the grandeur of the ſcene, but, in my humble opinion, they leſſen that ſimplicity which, though it be leſs ſtriking, is infinitely more pleaſing, in the appearance of unadorned nature which never palls on the ſight; while art,

let

let it be ever ſo exquiſite, tires on being repeatedly ſeen. The French are likewiſe very fond of diſtorting their trees into various ſhapes, which yielded a moſt gloomy and melancholy appearance, and puts me always in mind of the pyramidal yew-trees in ſome of our country churchyards. As to the palace and its interior, it is certainly in point of ſplendor, ſuperior to any of our Royal palaces in England; but then, there is ſuch a *mêlange* of magnificence and dirt, that admiration and diſguſt takes equal poſſeſſion of our ſenſes! But perfection is not the lot of humanity, neither in ourſelves or in our performances, ſo that it is hardly fair to find fault, while innumerable beauties ſo juſtly lay claim to our praiſe and commendations; but thoſe who are accuſtomed to the cleanlineſs, neatneſs and elegance of England, muſt of courſe be more ſeriouſly affected at the *contraſt*, and feel diſtaſte, when curioſity is ſatisfied. When we went into the grand preſence chamber, we were highly gratified with every

object that preſented itſelf to our view; the paintings in particular, engroſſed much of our attention, but the approach which led to this ſuperb apartment was up a naſty ſtaircaſe, the ſmell of which made us ready to faint; and upon every landing place were fixed againſt the wall large iron extinguiſhers, to put out the flambeaux; and all the filth iſſuing from the wax and pitch were underneath in heaps, with the ſweepings of the ſtairs which are ſcarcely ever waſhed, ſo that our cloaths were in danger of being quite ſpoiled. Smollet's remark was a very juſt one, though much too coarſe for a female correſpondent to repeat; for an explanation of which, I will refer you to his works. This general inconſiſtency ſeems to be the predominant feature of the French nation; of which I will give you, dear madam, another proof.

A few days ſince, we dined at Carrier, a little country box belonging to the honourable Miſs D. built by the unfortunate Lally! her ſiſter, the Baroneſs de

B——l, was of the party, a moſt charming woman, but being born and always bred at Paris, ſhe has not the leaſt appearance of an Engliſh woman, and even liſps broken Engliſh with as pretty an accent as any of the French ladies; which I have heard remarked by men, as a captivating defect. Among the noble gueſts were the Marquis de V——n and his Lady, who live in Dauphiné, but viſit Paris every winter. The Marchioneſs is, without exception, the moſt beautiful woman I ever beheld! her hands and arms, which were of the fineſt ſhape and colour, were adorned with pearl bracelets claſped with diamonds. You, Madam, who diſplay ſuch uncommon taſte in your own attire, will readily allow that the Marchioneſs's dreſs was perfectly elegant, when I inform you that her ſack and coat was of the paleſt pink richly trimmed with broad Valenciennes lace; her fine auburn hair plaited twice round her head with ſmall pearls; her cloak was of tamboured muſlin lined with pink, and decorated with a profuſion

of

of the ſame rich lace as her gown; ſhe wore a pair of pink ſattin ſlippers with diamond roſettes, and her earrings and necklace conſiſted of very large pearls. During dinner ſhe was attended by two of her laquais in very rich liveries, who charmed us the whole time with the muſic of their noſtrils, which they trumpeted without ceaſing; taking inceſſantly large quantities of ſnuff, and as often blowing their noſes; ſo that they had frequent opportunities of diſplaying, as Smollet terms it, the flag of abomination; beſide which, they ſpit every five minutes upon the floor, over which their beautiful miſtreſs trailed with very great pomp her long train furbelowed with coſtly lace!! This I give you my word, Madam, is a fact without the leaſt exaggeration! I obſerved before, they never change their knife and fork, but have always clean napkins at every meal; their plate is ſcarcely ever cleaned, their reaſons are, that it renders it leſs valuable, as conſtantly rubbing it diminiſhes the ſilver, ſo that the forks

from

from being continually uſed in eating of eggs, look as yellow as if they were waſhed with gold. All dinner time the moſt delicate ladies take ſnuff, the conſequences are not always perfectly agreeable to an Engliſh ſtomach, and yet, with all this, they are exquiſitely clean as to their own perſons! in ſhort, it would fill a volume if I were to name a twentieth part of the inconſiſtencies of theſe hateful but agreeable people, who may be truly ſtyled paradoxical! It muſt, however, be acknowledged, that perſons of diſtinction are well bred and captivating in their manners whenever they are in a humour to make themſelves agreeable. They are very attentive to ſtrangers, particularly travellers, who make but a ſhort ſtay among them. But in ſpite of all that *forced* politeneſs, and ſeeming urbanity, it is eaſy for any one of diſcernment to perceive that they never can conquer that inveterate hatred to the Engliſh whatever pains they may take out of policy to diſguiſe it! As I have lately read ſome

of

of *Madame de Grafigny*'s literary productions, I cannot refrain (being applicable to the preſent ſubject) from giving you an extract which I tranſlated this morning from one of her Peruvian Letters, which is looked upon as her *chef-d'ouvre*; but I muſt previouſly obſerve, that I think it by much too ſevere a ſatire on the French nation, and am greatly aſtoniſhed that a woman of her liberal way of thinking, as to all other matters, ſhould have carried her prejudices to ſo great a length.

" Vanity," ſays this Lady, " and a de-
" ſire of appearing opulent is the predo-
" minant paſſion of the F ench. Genius,
" and even the arts and ſciences are the
" means by which they diſplay their vain
" pageantry and oſtentation, all which
" conſpire to ruin their fortunes. Their
" immoderate love of ſuperfluities and
" trifles, corrupt both their reaſon and
" their hearts; I ſhould not, perhaps, ſo
" ſeverely condemn their taſte for ſuper-
" fluity, if it were not for the ill conſe-

" quences

" quences which always ariſe from in-
" dulging it, at leaſt, to that exceſs, which
" is no leſs than the ſacrifice of ſolid and
" real enjoyments; they are abſolutely
" idolatrous in reſpect to their exceſſive
" fondneſs for magnificence and ſhew, to
" which they make a ſacrifice of both
" their repoſe and honour; for it is no
" uncommon thing to ſee among thoſe
" oſtentatious people, an appearance of
" opulence in one part of the houſe,
" while poverty and meanneſs occupies
" the other. Their diverſions conſiſt in
" a boiſterous kind of gaiety expreſſed
" by loud peals of laughter, in which the
" mind ſeems to bear but a ſmall part.
" They have ſubſtituted a ſuperficial po-
" liteneſs, conſiſting of words only in
" the place of good manners; and in lieu
" of reaſon and good ſenſe, a falſe,
" through brilliant wit. In ſhort, they
" ſeem Beings who have eſcaped from
" the hands of their Creator, before he
" had finiſhed their intellectual faculties,
" for they have ſuch an amazing vivacity

" in their compoſitions, that they ſcarcely
" give themſelves time to find words to
" expreſs their ſentiments, conveying as
" much by the variety of their geſtures,
" and the action of their bodies, as with
" their voice."

I confeſs, Madam, there is ſome truth in the above remarks, but yet it muſt be acknowledged that it is rather exaggerated; in ſhort it may be conſidered as a *caricature* of the French nation, and what is there that may not be turned into ridicule and be ſubject to ſatire? *Madame de Grafigny* was by birth a *German*, and the Germans do not, in their hearts, love the French much better than the French love the Engliſh. She was held in very high eſtimation by the Ducheſs *de Richelieu*, which moſt likely created a jealouſy among ſome of the French ladies of quality, at whoſe conduct towards her ſhe may have poſſibly felt herſelf a little piqued, a circumſtance which may have given birth to the prejudices ſhe appears to entertain againſt them. In leſs than a fortnight,

Lord

Lord and Lady R. propoſe to honour us with their company at St. Germains, which I truſt will afford me another occaſion to repeat the infinite pleaſure I always take in correſponding with a lady whom I ſo highly honour and eſteem.

Believe me, dear Madam,

&c. &c.

NINTH LETTER TO THE SAME.

NOW, my dear Madam, prepare yourſelf for one of my long, very long epiſtles, which, I do aſſure you, will, as I fear, many of my former ones have done, put your patience to the teſt. I have a great deal to tell you, but I will be as brief as the ſubject will admit. If you recollect, I had the honour to inform you in my laſt, that we were to be favoured with a viſit from the Earl and Counteſs of R. on that day fortnight, which was yeſterday, and a very pleaſant day it proved to all parties; as the weather was remarkably fine and ſerene; I muſt, in the

firſt place, inform you, that we brought over with us from England, a complete ſet of muſical glaſſes, upon which Mr. Tudor and myſelf performed together, he playing the baſs. On the approach of their Excellencies into the hall, we opened with GOD SAVE THE KING, whilſt they ſtood at the door mute with pleaſure and ſurprize, at a reception, not only ſo novel and unexpected, but accompanied with ſuch a ſtrain of loyalty. They received, as it was meant, a compliment ſo juſtly due to them as the repreſentatives of our gracious Sovereign and his Royal and amiable conſort. We performed it twice, and it was choruſſed by his Lordſhip's Chaplain, Mr. F. with his Secretary, that very worthy man Mr. H. and two ladies who were likewiſe in the ſuite. This being concluded, we conducted our illuſtrious viſitors into an inner apartment, where we had exerted all our fancy in honour of the day. In this room was a large receſs raiſed one ſtep higher than the floor, covered with a Perſian carpet, on

on which was placed a crimſon velvet chair for Lady R——: on the top and ſides of the receſs, hung an elegant feſtooned drapery painted upon fine Holland. Three dinner tables were provided; one of a moderate ſize and two very ſmall ones, which were fixed backward as wings to the other; over the whole, were turned willow arches, which were firſt bound over with green box and myrtles: the front of the large table was conveyed up to the top of the room in the form of a grenadier's cap, covered in the ſame manner with box and myrtle. In the front of the cap was G. R. in large capitals, the letters being compoſed of ſhells, beads, and ſmall bits of looking glaſs, and over it ZULESTIEN, (with the ſame materials) Second Regiment. Water glaſſes were fixed on both ſides of the tables at the bottom of the arches, from which, the ſtems of every kind of fruit and flower iſſued from the water, twining about the arches and room in a moſt fantaſtic manner, to the beauty of which,

which, the noble pomgranate branches in full bloſſom did not a little contribute: theſe, together with the woodbines, roſes, lilies, pinks, and branches of orange trees in bloſſom, you may eaſily conceive, Madam, converted the room into an arbour that could not fail of gratifying two of the ſenſes. A number of ſmall ſtraw baſkets moſt beautifully embroidered with ſilk of different colours, hung upon the branches of the box and myrtle, filled with the choiceſt fruits, and were ſo placed, that her Excellency with great eaſe ate of them as they hung; in ſhort, the various flowers, vines that hung in cluſters, oranges on branches, cherries, apples, pears, peaches, with large boughs of green almonds, were ſo blended together, as to give an idea of the moſt rural and delightful bower that imagination can paint! In one part of the large arbour was a blackbird's neſt, ſo ſituated amongſt the aromatic ſweets, that it might have inticed the owner of it into the houſe. The little table on one ſide was characterized as an alehouſe at St. Osyth,

OSYTH, in Eſſex, one of his Lordſhip's ſeats; it had the ſign of the Rochford Arms, kept by *William* and *Mary*, ſervants to his Lordſhip. The other wing alluded to EUSTON, another ſeat of his Lordſhip's. On the middle of the longer table in a beautifully cut glaſs reſervoir, ſtood a tall ORANGE* tree, with ripe fruit and bloſſoms thereon, which reached nearly to the cieling; at the top of which was placed a garland of roſes, which ſuſtained a ruſtic Earl's coronet made of glaſs, moſs, ſhells, beads, &c. with the old family motto embroidered in gold, "TANDES SIT SURCULUS ARBOR."

The orange and pomgranate trees were preſented to us by Monſieur *Le Grand Procureur du Roy*, of this town, who is one of the beſt hearted as well as the beſt bred man I have met with in France. I muſt not omit to mention, that among the flowers and fruits were interſperſed a flower that is not very common even in France,

* Alluding to his Lordſhip's being deſcended from the illuſtrious Houſe of Orange.

France, and never as I recollect, ever ſeen in England, of a moſt beautiful hue, a ſpecies of Iris; we have ſomething in England like it of an inferior ſort, of a blue colour; but this, which is called *fleur de flamme*, looks at a little diſtance the colour of a flame, a kind of ſhot ſcarlet and yellow variegated with a rich glowing purple; the leaves reſemble thoſe of our Iris. As to the ſubſtantial part of the dinner, it conſiſted only of ham, chickens, peas, beans, and a little paſtry, for it was impoſſible for us to think of giving their Excellencies ſuch a dinner as was ſuitable to their rank and ſituation, as it would have been very unſuitable to our purſe, and highly improper in every reſpect, as you will be pleaſed to conſider, they came in their private capacity, and as *friends*, and it would have given, inſtead of that ſatisfaction they felt, and which they ſo politely expreſſed, infinite pain for us to have put ourſelves to an expence we could not, they well knew, afford, and after all that we could have done, it would

would have been very much inferior to what they had every day for their own family dinner! ſo that we could not be ſtigmatized or ridiculed for being guilty of the greateſt of all follies, which ſome fools are guilty of, aping the magnificence and luxuries of the great, till it ends in their ruin!

As Mr. Tudor is under the neceſſity of going to England upon ſome urgent buſineſs, he intends himſelf the honour of being the bearer of this, which will give him an opportunity of ſatisfying your curioſity as to many points, relative to the cuſtoms and manners of theſe people, who in ſpite of their neglect of that cleanlineſs, ſo characteriſtic of the Engliſh, and the numberleſs inconſiſtences of which they are guilty, are confeſſedly a very captivating people. Nothing can be more agreeable than a French officer of a certain age, ſo well bred, ſo attentive, with the utmoſt decorum in all his converſations and manner; even Mr. Tudor, who is not over partial to the French, declares

that he has never met with but few men in any nation, through which he has travelled, that are to be compared to them in every thing that can render ſociety agreeable. The very young men in general are inſufferable coxcombs, but even they act with decorum, when in company with officers of the above deſcription, of whom they ſtand in no ſmall awe, for the moſt trifling affront is immediately reſented *ſur le champ*, as the aggreſſor is but rarely complimented with a formal challenge and having *ſeconds*, as before he can be allowed time to recollect his fault or ſue for pardon, the ſword of his antagoniſt is run through his body! but, however, this is ſeldom the caſe, as every one is ſtrictly upon his guard as to giving the leaſt offence. Thus politeneſs and the moſt perfect good breeding towards each other, is religiouſly obſerved among them. If I may venture an opinion, I think it may be eaſily accounted for, why our nation has honoured the French with the appellation of *petits-maitres*, which has ariſen in great meaſure

to

to their conſtant attachment to the women. I allude not as to the matter of love, for in that reſpect, I believe they are much more indifferent than men of other nations; but as I obſerved before, Frenchmen never drink but at their meals, and are not permitted to indulge themſelves with talking politics; they of courſe do not aſſociate ſo much with each other as with the other ſex, with whom they ſit and enter into all the little frivolous amuſements in which women generally paſs their time; it is therefore no uncommon thing to ſee men knit, knot, and *broder a tambour*, which make ſome of our rough Engliſh bucks look upon them to be perfectly effeminate; but theſe very men, let me tell them, when employed in the ſervice of their country, are certainly equal, if not ſuperior to the military officers of every other nation. This is a truth they ſeem very conſcious of themſelves, for at the ſame time they allow that the Engliſh produce better ſeamen, they contend for their ſuperiority

in the field, over all other nations under the ſun. The Duke de N——l's Maſter of the Horſe, is one of the genteeleſt men in France, and is eſteemed a very brave and gallant officer, and yet, I never beheld ſo beautiful a piece of embroidery in tambour, as I did the other day of that Gentleman's work; it was a gown for the Counteſs de T, daughter to the Duke; the flowers were ſhaded with great judgment, the pattern was his own invention, in which he ſhewed infinite taſte; all the flowers, leaves, and ſtems, were edged with gold, which gave it a very rich appearance. For my part, I ſee no impropriety in men working with the ladies, and think it full as rational as that ridiculous chit-chat with which men generally entertain the women; it is true, that converſation in this country is neceſſarily limited to what we call *ſmall talk*, for they muſt not diſpute about religious matters, any more than they dare venture to talk politics, and if once they were to indulge themſelves in giving a ſcope

a ſcope to philoſophical ideas, that would naturally lead them to think deeper than either Government or the Prieſthood would much reliſh, particularly the latter, who dread nothing ſo much as that the underſtanding of the people ſhould be enlightened, as they well know there would then be an end to their power!

Adieu, my dear Madam; Mr. Tudor is in haſte to be gone, and I hope will ſoon have the honour of kiſſing your hand.

TENTH LETTER TO THE SAME.

ST. GERMAINS.

MY DEAR MADAM,

I WAS yeſterday moſt agreeably ſurpriſed to ſee my huſband and his eldeſt daughter enter my apartment. I had no idea that he could have finiſhed the buſineſs which called him from me in ſo ſhort a time! I return you my ſincere thanks for the very kind reception which he tells me he met with from you, but which, he is ſo very modeſt as to attribute

bute entirely to that regard with which you have ever honoured me, but I ſhall not place it to my own account, or in any other way than that you wiſh to evince your friendſhip to me, by ſhewing an attention to one who conſtitutes the honour and happineſs of my life.

Nothing can flatter my vanity more, than your moſt obliging letter, in which you deſire me to continue a correſpondence which you are pleaſed ſo politely to ſay, has given you ſome pleaſure. But an unforeſeen event has happened, which makes me imagine that our ſtay on the Continent will be of a much ſhorter duration than we at firſt intended. I hope, however, that there will not be any occaſion for us to quit this delightful ſpot before September.

Although I ſat down ſo impatiently to acknowledge your polite attention to me and my huſband, I ſhall not conclude my letter till after the King's birth-day, which you know, is next Friday; as upon that day, we are to have the honour of dining with

with the Ambaſſador, in company with all the Engliſh of faſhion who are at Paris and its environs.

I will now proceed to give you ſome account of Mr. Tudor's eldeſt daughter, whom, with her ſiſter, we had left at the Benedictine convent at Calais, under the protection of Mrs. Grey. Mr. Tudor intended to have brought them both home, but found his youngeſt daughter in ſuch a condition as rendered it impoſſible to introduce her at preſent into company; as the ſmall-pox, which muſt have been of the moſt virulent kind, ſo mangled and diſfigured her face, that her father was greatly ſhocked at her appearance, nor could he find the leaſt trace of her former beauty! her ſiſter is neither ſo handſome or cheerful as ſhe was, but rather reſerved and gloomy. She has, I already perceive, been ſo well tutored by their prieſts, that although ſhe is ſo young, ſhe is become in the ſhort time ſhe was at the convent, a moſt rigid devotée! ſhe has cut off all her fine hair,

and

and wears a large double bordered cap, which conceals nearly all her face! This conduct of hers, has greatly diſpleaſed her father, and diſappointed his views of introducing her into thoſe circles which could not but have greatly improved her manners, and given that poliſh ſo neceſſary you well know, Madam, for a young woman to attain, who is juſt entering into life. This morning, I preſented to her ſome valuable trinkets that were her mother's, among which were ſome fine pearl ornaments, a diamond ring, and a gold enamelled watch; but though ſhe ſeemed very much pleaſed with my offering them to her, yet you will ſcarcely credit what I tell you, that ſhe abſolutely *refuſed* them all! Upon my aſking her the reaſon, ſhe replied, that ſhe never would wear any thing of that kind, as ſhe wiſhed to be dreſſed in the moſt plain and ſimple manner, being deſirous to retire from the world, as ſhe much wiſhed to embrace the Catholic Religion, and ſpend the remainder of her days in a convent! I confeſs,

I was

I was thunderſtruck; for ſome time I had no power to make a reply! But, however I may admire and revere her piety, I felt perfectly aſtoniſhed, that ſo young a perſon, and in ſo ſhort a time too, ſhould have been ſo far prevailed upon as to wiſh to give up the world and become a recluſe! What infinite pains muſt theſe people have taken, to have impreſſed her mind with theſe notions! At the ſame time, I proceeded with caution in a matter of ſo much delicacy, and when I had to do with a mind ſo ſtrongly impreſſed with their enthuſiaſtic notions. My diſtaſte to the Catholic Religion ariſes entirely from its want of univerſal charity; for can any thing be more ſhocking to a benevolent mind, than that part of their doctrine which excludes from ſalvation, all thoſe who are not within the pale of their own church? Surely, this is a ſtrong proof of their not adhering to thoſe divine precepts of JESUS CHRIST, who declared, that "*a remnant of all ſhall be ſaved!*" This leads

me to repeat my former ſentiments upon this ſubject, as one cannot but lament, that the Chriſtian Religion, which breathes nothing but meekneſs, charity, and univerſal benevolence, ſhould have been ſo perverted as to have become a ſcourge in the hands of its profeſſors, and the Catholic eccleſiaſtics, who will not allow, that no one can be acceptable to God, who may differ from them in particular points of faith; not conſidering that faith is not always in our own power, but to be merciful and juſt, is in the power of every man.

Mr. Tudor was for ſome time outrageouſly angry with his daughter, till I endeavoured to appeaſe him by employing ſuch arguments as occurred to me, in her excuſe. I reminded him, that her being partial to the Catholic Religion, was no more than natural, as her mother and the major part of her family, by her mother's ſide, had been bred up in that religion; all which I ſuppoſed the prieſts well knew, and therefore beſet her with much

much more aſſiduity than they would otherwiſe have done! Strange, my dear Madam, as all this muſt appear to you, you will ſtill be more aſtoniſhed at what follows. On my mentioning to *Madame de la Mark* and the Princeſs *de Beauvais*, Miſs Tudor's religious turn, they thus exclaimed, "it is a call from GOD!" and hoped that if I was a Proteſtant, that I would not endeavour to alter her pious ſentiments! My reply gave them much ſatisfaction, for which they formed a better opinion of me than before; this they ingenuouſly confeſſed, and were now, I found, not without ſome hopes of making a convert of me. The Princeſs de B. had been educated it ſeems in the ſame convent with Lady Elizabeth, the mother of Miſs Tudor, ſhe therefore felt herſelf the more intereſted for the future happineſs of her daughter. This I was informed of by Miſs D. The Princeſs therefore offered to place Miſs T. in the Royal Convent of St. Denis, without any expence to us; where, ſhe ſaid, they were treated

with more indulgence than in any other convent in France. Since, therefore, it was the wiſh of Miſs T. to become a nun, I thought it was ſuch an offer as would highly pleaſe her; but in this, I was greatly diſappointed, as I found ſhe treated it with a coolneſs rather bordering upon contempt; for though ſhe felt herſelf infinitely obliged both to the Princeſs and me, ſhe hoped, if her father would have the goodneſs to let her take the veil, that it might be in the Order of Poor Claires! Good Heaven, child, cried I, do you not know that the order of the Claires is the moſt ſevere and rigid of any in France? She calmly replied, ſhe knew that circumſtance, and was well acquainted with all the auſterities that ſhe ſolicited, but that the harder the order, the more merit with God! As ſhe muſt it ſeems, be two years a penſioner, before ſhe can be admitted to enter upon her year of probation, her father and I both have hopes that ſhe may in that time, ſee enough of the convent, to deter her from being

being of their community; we are willing, therefore, ſhe ſhould go as a penſioner, when ſhe will have a little ſpecimen of what ſhe is to ſuffer, if ſhe ſhould obſtinately perſiſt in purſuing that mode of life? we therefore, propoſe the day after to-morrow, to accompany her to the convent at Rouen. Adieu, for the preſent.

I have now reſumed my pen, my dear Madam, to inform you we are juſt returned from Paris, where we went after accompanying Miſs Tudor to Rouen. I never in my life had ſo pleaſant a journey. The proſpect was moſt delightful all the way between St. Germains and that place. A great part of the road lies between hills cloſe on the banks of the Seine, of which you have a view betwixt the breaks in them. The whole country around is beautiful and finely cultivated. The city of Rouen is remarkably clean, adorned with a very fine Gothic cathedral, and many well-built churches and monaſteries. When we arrived at the convent

of

of poor Claires, we were ſtruck with reverential awe at the ſolemnity of every thing around us; the gloomy aſpect of the place, the profound ſilence which reigned throughout, threw rather a damp on my ſpirits, but we were ſoon conducted into a large parlour, in which was placed a moſt beautifully carved crucifix as large as life, with an expreſſion of countenance that would, I think, have made a convert of a Deiſt! the exquiſite cleanlineſs of the place, and the modeſty and meekneſs of the attendants, I confeſs, made a deep impreſſion on me! an iron lattice took up one entire ſide of the room, behind which was a green curtain. When we were ſeated, we requeſted the favour of one of the lay ſiſters, to convey to the Lady Abbeſs a letter which we brought from the Prior of St. Germains, not only to announce who we were, but upon what buſineſs we came. In about a quarter of an hour the curtain was undrawn, when in came with great dignity and ſolemn pace, the Lady Abbeſs,

Abbeſs, who greeted us with infinite politeneſs, ſeating herſelf as cloſe to us as the lattice would admit. As we had already delivered our credentials, we briefly told her, that our daughter not only wiſhed to embrace the Catholic Religion, but to be admitted into their holy community; upon which, the old Lady ſignified her approbation in the moſt pious terms, ſaying, as all the others had done, "that it was a call from God." She then, with a moſt benign ſmile, tendered her hand to Miſs Tudor, who dropping upon her knee, had the honour of kiſſing it. The Lady Abbeſs then rang a little bell, when there immediately appeared ten or twelve old nuns, to whom ſhe related all that had paſſed; they then ſeated themſelves cloſe to the grating forming a ſemicircle. Two of the lay ſiſters came in with a tray of proviſion and began to lay the cloth, which as ſoon as we perceived, we aroſe with an intention of returning to our inn, and to come again after dinner, but they preſſed us ſo much

to

to take ſome refreſhment, that we could not reſiſt their importunities; and we were much ſurpriſed, and indeed a little hurt, to ſee the table preſently covered with a profuſion of dainties, conſiſting of roaſt chicken, ſallads, butter, cheeſe, a variety of fine fruit, and moſt excellent wine; coffee and delicious liquors ſucceeded. They apologized for not partaking with us, but ſaid that they were obliged to conform to their rules. We ate but little, though we were hungry, for we could not, from ſentiment, think of feaſting in the preſence of ſuch poor half ſtarved beings, as they not only *appeared* to be, but as in fact they really are! for it ſeems they eat but one meal a day, and but of one thing only at a meal! There is, however, a very good table kept for the penſioners and parlour boarders; and except what they get by them, they ſubſiſt entirely upon charity; though they are ſo much beloved by the inhabitants, that they have plenty of proviſions, beſides the donations they receive from the Catho-

Catholics in England. They wear no linen, and their faces are ſo covered with a black veil, that no part of it can be ſeen but the tip of their narrow chins; the Lady Abbeſs indeed, wore her's a trifle higher, but it was, I imagine, that we might be better able to hear what ſhe ſaid, for her voice was very low and faint, no doubt, from the want of ſufficient ſuſtenance!

As ſoon as we had finiſhed our repaſt, all the young ladies who were penſioners, both Engliſh and French, came to pay their compliments to us. They ſeemed very well educated, and entered the room with a very good grace and genteel addreſs; there could not be leſs than thirty or forty of them, all dreſſed alike in black cloth ſtays and coats, with long trains and white veils thrown a little back; I never beheld a more lovely ſight; they were from the age of ſix to eighteen; ſuch modeſty and meekneſs, how truly captivating, but it is to be lamented, that all that angelical appearance ſhould va-

niſh the moment they enter into the ſociety of the world. By our deſire, they permitted Miſs Tudor to ſee the interior of the convent, when I particularly requeſted, for obvious reaſons, that ſhe might ſee their cells and other ſymbols of their auſtere life. In about a quarter of an hour ſhe returned to us alone, when we aſked her whether ſhe choſe to enter as a penſioner, or return with us to St. Germains? She choſe the former; we therefore conducted her to a door which led to the interior of the convent, where the Lady Abbeſs and all the nuns were aſſembled ready to receive her, which they did in the moſt affectionate manner; the door then cloſed, and Mr. T. and I withdrew with heavy hearts, and ſhedding tears all the way to our inn. We roſe at an early hour the following morning, as we wiſhed to take a view of the city, which is moſt delightfully ſituated. We met a great number of very genteel women going to maſs; their exterior garment was made of a rich black ſilk, and in ample folds

folds reached down to their heels, and was gathered very full round the neck. I never ſaw that dreſs in any other part of France; ſome are made with long flowing ſleeves, and others only with arm-holes.

The day after our return home, we ſet out for Paris, that we might make the neceſſary preparations for the king's birth day. We went early, to have the pleaſure of converſing with Lady R. before the levée commenced. She looked uncommonly well. We found her ſeated in a chair of ſtate, with one foot on a crimſon velvet ſtool; her head dreſs was remarkably elegant, conſiſting of a ſuperb diamond coronet; her gown was a ſlight pink and white luſtring, with a ray of pea-green, beautifully ornamented with broad blond lace. The ladies in general were moſt elegantly attired; among whom was Miſs W. daughter to the patriot, but as her father was at *that* time under a cloud, he was not invited. When the Earl of M. was announced, there was a general buzz throughout the room, every

one being in full expectation of ſeeing him appear as uſual, with a profuſion of finery; but we were greatly aſtoniſhed at his abſurdity, in coming in deep mourning; for which, I perceived his minnikin Lordſhip got himſelf gently rebuked by the Ambaſſadreſs, who obſerved, that his Lordſhip muſt have quite forgot that it was the King's birth-day! We did not hear what apology he made, but he looked rather confuſed, as he could not but perceive that the Ladies were tittering behind their fans, and that the men looked upon him with an air of cool ſurpriſe! Dinner being announced, her Excellency was followed by her numerous gueſts, for whom there was provided a moſt ſumptuous banquet. Lord S——l ſat next to me, and as his Lordſhip was helping me to ſome fruit, he happened to caſt his eye on one of my bracelets, and he was ſo much ſtruck with the exquiſite painting it contained, that I took it off for him to have a nearer view of it; he then exclaimed, I never ſaw any thing ſo very

ſmall

ſmall painted with ſuch expreſſion of countenance as thoſe figures, in my life! I need not, Madam, ſaid his Lordſhip, aſk you for whom they were painted, as it is the ſtrongeſt reſemblance of the Royal Family I ever beheld! This, naturally raiſed the curioſity of all the company preſent, who expreſſed a wiſh to look at it, accordingly it was handed round till it came to the hands of the Ambaſſador, who declared, that if it were his property, he ſhould certainly preſent it to the Queen. Moſt of the company gave it as their opinion, that it muſt have been formerly the property of one of the Royal Family. You have gueſſed the truth, replied Mr. Tudor, for it was painted for his Majeſty King George the Firſt, who gave it to the Ducheſs of Kendal. Mr. T. perceiving the company ſeemed ſurpriſed, and look as if they were anxious for a further explanation, he continued to inform them, that my father having purchaſed great part of the valuable furniture which belonged to the

Ducheſs,

Ducheſs, at an auction after her death, the miniature with two ſmaller ones ſet in gold, were found in one of the private drawers of a commode table. He added, that a few years ago having ſhewn it to a French *vertuoſo*, he declared that it was the fineſt painting in miniature he ever beheld, and expreſſed his opinion, if it were ſhewn to the Queen, that her Majeſty would like to purchaſe it, as it was ſo ſtrong a likeneſs of the Royal Family.—Mr. T. replied, that if he thought her Majeſty would do him the high honour to accept of it, nothing could give him greater pleaſure; but I muſt firſt know, ſaid he, whether I can with propriety venture to make the Queen an offer of it? I am confident, ſaid the *vertuoſo*, that if the Queen was to ſee it, ſhe would be delighted with it; and continued he, if you wiſh that her Majeſty ſhould ſee it, I have a friend, who is with her every day, and if you will give your conſent, I will undertake that he ſhall ſhew it to her Majeſty. As nothing can give me, ſaid Mr.

Mr. Tudor, a more ſenſible pleaſure than the having an opportunity of ſhewing my duty and reſpect to the Queen; (having been the firſt who had the honour to welcome her Majeſty to theſe happy realms) I gave it into the hands of the *vertuoſo* to have it conveyed to her Majeſty, through the hands of his friend, who, I imagined, was a *Nobleman*, by his intimating that he was with the Queen every day! Here Mr. Tudor pauſed; the Ambaſſador was anxious to hear the ſequel, which Mr. T. promiſed to acquaint him with next day, as he thought he had already engroſſed too much of the company's attention, and he likewiſe perceived that the Ambaſſadreſs and the ladies wiſhed to withdraw. The company broke up early, and the Ambaſſador inſiſted upon our ſpending the evening with him, to which my huſband conſented merely out of complaiſance, well knowing that his Lordſhip could not ſleep till he had heard the concluſion of this little hiſtory. Indeed, my dear Madam, if there was not ſomething very

very curious in it, as well as myſterious, I ſhould be fearful you would think that I had intruded too much on your patience, in giving you the quantum of half a dozen letters in one. As ſoon as ſupper was over, his Lordſhip teſtified much impatience to hear what followed: after the *vertuoſo* had given his friend the miniature picture to ſhew the Queen, I remained in ſuſpence (ſaid Mr. T.) for near a week, without being able to learn the ſucceſs of it, whether the Queen had or had not accepted of it; for in that time I had called twice at his lodgings, when he told me, that his friend had ſhewn it to the Queen, but that ſhe was deſirous his Majeſty ſhould ſee it before ſhe gave her final anſwer; but, ſays he, I dare ſay in a day or two, I ſhall be able to acquaint you with the reſult. Accordingly I called again in a few days, when he informed me that both their Majeſties were highly pleaſed with the picture, and deſired that I would fix a price, as they did not chuſe to accept of a preſent from a ſubject! I confeſs

confeſs I was rather ſtaggered at this ſpeech, as I could not believe that her Majeſty would refuſe to do *me* the ſame honour which ſhe had juſt before conferred upon another, as I had been informed! I was, however, obliged to decide the matter, either to *fix the price*, or have the picture returned! But what price to fix, I found a very difficult taſk! if I were to aſk what it was certainly worth, it might have been thought too much! if I were to aſk a low price, it might be deemed impertinent to underrate a thing that I thought worthy the acceptance of a crowned head! this was a point of great delicacy! ſo great was my dilemma, that I was at a loſs how to act, which the ſly *vertuoſo* perceiving, ſaid, perhaps, as you ſo much wiſh it, my friend may be able to prevail on her Majeſty to *accept* of it, or perhaps make you ſome return for the compliment. Thus ended that morning's converſation, when he promiſed to call in a day or two upon his friend, when he did not doubt but I

ſhould very ſoon receive ſome ſatisfaction on that head. A week or ten days elapſed without my hearing one ſyllable on the ſubject. I knew (continued Mr. Tudor) that her Majeſty was too good and too benevolent, to keep me in painful ſuſpence, and not let me be informed whether ſhe would be graciouſly pleaſed to honour me with her acceptance of it, or elſe order it to be returned to me. I then, for the firſt time, formed a ſuſpicion that ſome foul play was intended me, becauſe I could not account for the reaſon of the *vertuoſo's* concealing ſo cautiouſly the name of his friend. I then waited upon the Lady at whoſe houſe I firſt ſaw this Frenchman, and related to her the whole ſtory, and aſked her whether ſhe could form any gueſs who his friend was, that ſaw the Queen every day? to be ſure I can, ſaid ſhe; it is Monſ. M——, the Queen's Linguiſt; I thanked her, and immediately ſet out in order to pay a viſit to Monſ. M———. Luckily that great man was at home; he

he received me with a great deal of French civility, when I acquainted him with the reaſon of my viſit, which was to be informed whether her Majeſty had been pleaſed to accept of the miniature picture which he had done me the honour to ſhew to her? I perceived he muſed for a few minutes, but recovering himſelf, replied that her Majeſty was much pleaſed with it, and would be glad to have it, if I would name the price. I told him why that was impoſſible, giving thoſe reaſons I have already mentioned, but that I wiſhed to have the honour of preſenting it to the Queen as a mark of my duty and reſpect. Well, ſays he, I ſhall ſee the Queen to-morrow, when I dare ſay, ſhe will inform me of her intentions concerning it; therefore, Sir, if you will do me the honour to call in a day or two, I ſhall be able to tell you the Queen's determination. Accordingly I went again in a few days, when he told me that he had not had an opportunity of ſpeaking to her Majeſty, as the King

came in juſt as he was upon the point of aſking her. This ſhuffling conduct encreaſed my *ſuſpicions!* when I ſaid that I did require of him to make ſome enquiry about it, upon which he with a ſhrug of the ſhoulder, and putting on a conſequential air, muttered ſomething about its being in the poſſeſſion perhaps, of ſome of the Queen's German women, but he would ſee about it! I confeſs, I now began to loſe all patience, for I plainly perceived that the two Frenchmen were endeavouring to jockey me out of my property; I was therefore determined to make enquiries through ſome other channel; for which purpoſe, I went to Court with an intention of mentioning the circumſtance to ſome of the Nobility, when I immediately perceived the Ducheſs of P——, to whom I had made a preſent but a ſhort time before, of a very valuable picture, painted by Pettito; I related to her Grace the ſtory of the miniature, to which ſhe coolly replied, "that when Princes put thoſe kind of things in

"their

" their cabinets, no more is heard of them!" I confeſs I felt much provoked, and had determined to break through all Court etiquette, in order to know with certainty, whether the Queen had ſeen it; for I really began to think that her Majeſty might never have ſeen it at all! for this purpoſe I was advancing into the circle, as the Queen, I knew, would ſoon recollect me, having had twice the honour of kiſſing her hand: but whilſt I was waiting for a proper opportunity, I happened to caſt my eyes upon that truly good and benevolent hearted woman, the Ducheſs of N———d, to whom I made a profound bow, when ſhe with great affability and good nature, obſerved that ſhe ſeldom ſaw me at Court: I informed her Grace, that I had a very large family and lived chiefly in the country, and explained to her Grace, *why* I was at Court then, relating every particular concerning the miniature picture; but inſtead of throwing cold water upon it, as her Grace of P—— had done, ſhe with

with infinite good humour told me, ſhe was much ſurpriſed that ſhe had not heard it mentioned, either by the Queen or any of the Ladies about her perſon, but ſaid ſhe was determined to aſk her Majeſty concerning it as ſoon as the levée was over, and bade me come the next morning to breakfaſt with her at N——d Houſe, when ſhe did not doubt, ſhe ſaid, but ſhe ſhould be able to give me all the ſatisfaction I could deſire! I muſt here obſerve, continued Mr. Tudor, that one of my brothers who was the Rector of I——, had been to the day of his death in very high favour with the Duke, who uſed frequently to dine with him, ſaying, "I "like Tudor to dine with you, for you "are never put out of your way, nor "add any thing upon my account, nor "do I know any body whoſe table is "more elegantly neat than your own;" this was truly the caſe, for he was nice to a fault; he never ſat down to more than two diſhes, excluſive of vegetables, whether he had company or dined alone, but

thoſe

thoſe two diſhes were dreſſed in the beſt manner; I made this digreſſion, continued Mr. Tudor, to ſhew *why* I was in ſuch favour with the Ducheſs. I went accordingly next morning, and after her Grace had preſented me to the Duke, ſhe ſeated me next herſelf at breakfaſt, when ſhe ſaid ſhe had ſomething to tell me concerning my picture; but, continued her Grace, with her uſual charming affability, come, come, eat your breakfaſt, and then I will inform you in whoſe hands it is! Seeing me look very impatient for an explanation, ſhe laughed and ſaid, "Know then, that the Queen is very "much aſtoniſhed, and diſpleaſed that "you are not put into poſſeſſion of your "picture again, for ſhe returned it to "Monſ. M—— above three weeks ago!" After thanking her Grace for the information ſhe had given me, and the trouble ſhe had taken, I then took my leave and went immediately to the houſe of Monſ. M——, who received me a little more *creſt fallen* than he did before, all the *que*

vive of the *Frenchman* was totally vaniſhed! I aſked him for my miniature; he ſaid that he had been that morning with the Queen, and believed he ſhould have had it, if the King had not come in. I did not then let him know that I had been informed that he had it three weeks in his own poſſeſſion, nor would I diſcover to him that I was no ſtranger to his chicanery, therefore only ſaid, that I expected he would deliver it up to me on the morrow, or elſe he muſt not be ſurpriſed at the ſtep I ſhould take to compel him! I perceived he had no power to reply, and even if he had attempted it, I certainly ſhould not have liſtened to him, having *experienced* that he was capable of ſo impudent a falſehood! It is by ſuch undermining ſycophants as theſe, that Princes are ſo often led into error with regard to the opinion they form of certain perſons, who are made to appear odious in their eyes through falſe repreſentations. I went the next day about the time I knew he would be coming from attending the Queen,

Queen, I ſaw him at a conſiderable diſtance before he perceived me; he looked thoughtful; his pace was ſlow; he had one hand in his pocket, holding I preſume the locket: Well, Doctor, ſaid I, I ſuppoſe you have now got the picture? Yes, ſaid he, looking ſullenly, I wiſh you good luck with it, for you have no chance now of the Queen's ever having it, I aſſure you! upon which I took the picture, and looking at it ſaid, I think I have good luck with it. What do you mean by that, ſaid he? Why Sir, ſaid I, I mean that I am very lucky to get it out of the hands of thoſe to whom I entruſted it; and if you want a farther explanation, I will tell you, that if it had not been for that good-hearted woman the Ducheſs of N——d, I ſhould have been, I plainly ſee, cheated out of my property; ſo off I turned indignantly upon my heel, leaving the Doctor to his own reflections. Lord R. expreſſed his aſtoniſhment and juſt indignation of ſuch French perfidy, and ſaid, "How Tudor, came you of all

" people, to truſt a couple of Frenchmen " in ſuch an affair, I thought you knew " the world better? but as you ſeem ſo " deſirous that the Queen ſhould have it, " I will undertake to preſent it to her " myſelf; therefore take it out of the " diamond ſetting, and I will have it ſet " in plain gold, and the firſt time I go to " Court, I will preſent it in ſuch a man- " ner, as I flatter myſelf, ſhe will not " refuſe to accept of it." We then took leave of their Excellencies, and next morning returned to this place, when I immediately put pen to paper, to relate to you what I have juſt written. I hope it may afford you ſome amuſement, to make amends for this long-winded epiſtle! but you may thank Heaven, Madam, that I ſhall not be much longer able to repeat my faults, as it will not be many weeks before we ſhall return to England. In the mean time,

I have the honour to be,

&c. &c.

ELEVENTH LETTER TO THE SAME.

CALAIS.

WE are now, my dear Madam, gently winding our way towards our native ſhore. On our arrival at this place, Mr. Tudor immediately ſet ſail for England, on purpoſe to provide an habitation for us ſomewhere in the country, when he fortunately met with a ſnug box in H——ſhire, about thirty miles from London. It is delightfully ſituated, with a fruit garden, pleaſure ground, fiſh-pond, and twenty acres of rich meadow ground, for which he is to pay nine hundred pounds. From his deſcription, I feel impatient to take poſſeſſion of it, which we ſhall certainly do as ſoon as it has undergone ſome neceſſary repairs.

Mr. Tudor did himſelf the honour of calling at your houſe, but was informed you were gone to your ſeat at Belle-vue. During his ſtay in town he dined with Lord R. who left Paris about the ſame

time we quitted St. Germain's. His Lordſhip informed Mr. Tudor that he came to London upon urgent buſineſs, but ſhould very ſoon return again to France. He likewiſe acquainted him with his ſucceſs as to his *private embaſſy*, having preſented the miniature picture to the Queen, who expreſſed, his Lordſhip ſaid, infinite ſatisfaction at beholding again a picture, which ſhe was pleaſed to ſay, ſhe greatly admired, from its exquiſite painting, as well as its ſtrong reſemblance of the Royal Family. Her Majeſty accepted of it in the moſt gracious manner; but I, who am rather of a jealous temper, ſuſpect, that his Lordſhip did not mention *who* was the *real donor*, wiſhing perhaps to have the *merit* of preſenting it as from himſelf! Indeed, I cannot help expreſſing my concern, that Mr. Tudor ſhould have permitted any other than himſelf to have the honour of preſenting it to her Majeſty.

But I muſt now tell you a very curious anecdote of a poor unfortunate Lady, a Mrs. P. who it ſeems lives but a few miles

miles diſtant from our newly purchaſed habitation. Mr. Tudor travelling in the ſtage to H——d, paſſed by a very elegant houſe ſurrounded with tall trees, and encompaſſed by high walls, ſo that the only view he could have of it was through a large iron gate. On one of the company in the coach obſerving that it belonged to 'Squire P. an old Lady, who till then had ſat ſilent, replied with a ſneer, "that 'Squire as you call him, "deſerves an halter, as much as any man "ever did who has ſuffered at the gal-"lows." Pray, Madam, ſaid Mr. T. whoſe curioſity was much raiſed, may I aſk what crime is laid to his charge? Why, Sir, ſays the Lady, he has been guilty of the blackeſt of all crimes, by confining his poor wife, on a pretence that ſhe is mad; indeed his barbarous uſage is enough to make her ſo. I have lived in this neighbourhood fourteen years, and have never ſeen her yet! nor is there any company ever ſuffered to come to the houſe, except ſome of his vicious

vicious companions, who often riot there with girls of bad character, whom they bring along with them, and thus the poor Lady is inhumanly treated, though she brought him an immense fortune.

His uncle died and left him a considerable estate, but he soon run through it by every vicious extravagance, till he was totally ruined! he was indeed upon the brink of a jail, when one of his companions bailed him, upon condition that he left town immediately. He then went to Bath, and happening to have a good run of luck at the gaming table, he procured about a couple of hundred, when he happened accidentally to hear, that there lived in a neighbouring county a very rich heiress, who was carefully locked up from the sight of every body, as her uncle who was her guardian, did not want her to marry, as he would succeed to her estate if she died single. The Squire, therefore, planned the following scheme to make her his prize. He dressed one of his companions in an hand-

some

ſome livery, hired a couple of horſes, and ſet off for the city of ———, within a few miles of old Mr. Gripe's houſe, the young Lady's uncle. Old Gripe and his brother were formerly vinegar merchants in London, and had amaſſed very large fortunes. The elder brother dying, left all his property to his daughter, Miſs Gripe, appointing her uncle to be her guardian, and in caſe of her death, if ſhe died unmarried, to ſucceed to the whole of it. The young Lady's intellects, they ſay, are rather weak, and her perſon ſomewhat deformed, but nevertheleſs ſhe is greatly to be pitied. 'Squire P. having learned every thing neceſſary for his information concerning her fortune, ſituation, &c. he ſet off for the village of D——, about two miles from old Gripe's houſe, where he ſtaid at the inn under a pretence of being laid up with the gout. His confident in livery, was ordered to ride to and fro' by Gripe's houſe, to reconnoitre the ſituation, and diſcover circumſtances. One morning he rode by early,

and

and ſaw the dairy-maid milking her cows in a meadow cloſe to the paling near the road ſide; this was a lucky hit for John, for pretending he had travelled a long way without breaking his faſt, he begged the favour of a little milk, which the good-natured unſuſpecting girl immediately complied with. Having thanked her for her civility, he told her, that on his return that way, he would convince her that he was not inſenſible of her kindneſs, and chucking her under the chin, they parted in great good humour with each other. A morning or two after, the lacquey did not fail to return at the ſame hour, and was again treated as before; upon which he preſented the milk-maid with a beautiful top-knot, as a token of gratitude. Molly being ſtruck with his generoſity, and likewiſe with his handſome perſon, could not let him depart without telling him he ſhould be welcome to ſome milk whenever, or as often as he came that way!—The dinner-bell having collected all the ſervants into the hall,

hall, the ſtory of the generous traveller was highly ſpoken of by Molly, but when the pink ſattin top-knot was ſhewn, all the maids envied the lucky dairy-maid, particularly Miſs Gripe's waiting woman, who flew at poor Molly, and obſerved with a malicious ſneer, that women ſeldom or ever received ſuch kind of preſents, unleſs they intended to grant the fellows ſome favours in return. This brought on ſuch bickerings on both ſides, as would moſt certainly have ended in pulling caps, if the gentlemen of the livery, after enjoying the ſquabble for ſome time, had not interfered and made them part friends; but upon conditions made by Mrs. Abigail, that Molly ſhould tell her when the ſtranger called again; for upon a little cool reflection, ſhe thought that by ſhewing ſome kindneſs to the ſtranger, ſhe herſelf might alſo partake of his genero ſity. In the mean time, Mrs. Abigail, who always conſidered her own intereſt as a principal part of her duty, was uncommonly civil to Molly, and by way of

making up for the little miſunderſtanding which had paſſed betwixt them, made her a preſent of a laced cap to wear with her new top-knot. This mark of *apparent* generoſity, Mrs. Abigail well judged, would lay Molly under an obligation to keep her promiſe, in letting her know when the ſtranger called again. Accordingly, it happened as both the Ladies wiſhed, for John was ſitting on his horſe cloſe to the meadow as uſual; as ſoon as Molly perceived him, ſhe went up to him, ſaying, that his generoſity to her deſerved a better return than a cup of milk, and if he would alight and faſten his horſe to the gate, ſhe would take him into the dairy, where he ſhould have a diſh of nice cream and bread; this was a treat he little dreamed of, and with which he was very much delighted. Whilſt he was partaking of this delicious repaſt, Molly left him to contemplate on the cleanlineſs of her dairy. The two *Ladies* ſoon returned together, when Molly preſented the ſtranger to Mrs. Abigail, who

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in return, complimented him with great addreſs on his generoſity to the dairy-maid, and at the ſame time, begged that when he had eaten his cream, he would do her the favour to walk into her apartment, where breakfaſt was ready; and as he might perhaps find the cream rather cold on his ſtomach, ſhe wiſhed to give him a diſh of good coffee or tea, which ever he liked beſt. Though Molly in her heart did not half like all this civility being ſhewn to John, whom ſhe was diſpoſed to conſider as her gueſt; yet, as Mrs. Abigail had the power of turning away the maid ſervants if they offended her, poor Molly was obliged to ſubmit to her fate. John, who had his maſter's intereſt much at heart, knowing that he himſelf ſhould come in for a *douceur* if they were ſucceſsful, was greatly pleaſed with his morning's adventure, and having taken leave of both his female competitors, he promiſed to call again very ſoon. He haſtened to inform his maſter of his ſucceſs, who immediately rewarded John

with a guinea for himſelf, and another to lay out in a fairing for Mrs. Abigail, who he deſired John to invite to the fair, which was to take place in a few days. Accordingly, John bought a very handſome ſilk handkerchief, and went to Gripe's houſe the next morning at the uſual hour, and was invited as before, into the dairy; but Molly not offering to go and inform Mrs. Abigail that he was come, John felt rather embarraſſed; for though he was well contented to ſit with Molly, who was a pretty roſy cheeked girl, yet he well knew that the grand point in view would be wholly fruſtrated, if Mrs. Abigail was in the leaſt neglected; and not daring to entruſt Molly with the important ſecret, whom he perceived to have more good nature than ſenſe, he felt himſelf under ſome difficulty how to act, when he thought of the following plan: as ſoon as he had finiſhed his cream and ſome nice roll, and butter churned by Molly that very morning, he made her promiſe to come to the fair in the even-

ing,

ing, when he would make her a preſent of any thing ſhe ſhould like beſt; but, continued he, for fear Mrs. Abigail ſhould be diſpleaſed at his not having remembered her, and be affronted at her being neglected after the civility ſhe had ſhewn him, he thought it was beſt to offer her a little fairing which he had in his pocket, of a ſilk handkerchief, ſhewing it to Molly, who coloured and looked a little chagrined, when he begged ſhe would go and acquaint Mrs. Abigail, that he wiſhed to have the pleaſure of ſpeaking with her; but, ſays he, taking hold of Molly's hand, you need not go yet, I will have the happineſs of enjoying as much of your company as I can, for to be plain with you, my attention to Mrs. Abigail, is ſolely upon your account, and as I wiſh to be here often, it would not be poſſible, if ſhe were to take a diſlike to me, or was to have the leaſt ſuſpicion that my viſits were to you alone! this artful ſpeech had the deſired effect on the ſimple girl, who inſtantly went to inform Mrs. Abigail of the

the arrival of their new gueſt, for whom ſhe herſelf felt a little partiality. Upon John being conducted into her apartment, he immediately preſented her with his fairing, which ſhe no ſooner beheld, than ſhe coloured with delight, not for the ſake of the handkerchief, though it was remarkably handſome, but becauſe ſhe flattered herſelf that ſhe had made ſome impreſſion on John's heart, who ſhe thought was offering her that preſent as a tribute due to her charms. He alſo conducted himſelf with great civility towards the men ſervants, whom he invited to come and drink with him at the inn. He then informed them, that the reaſon of their travelling that county was, that his maſter having lately come into poſſeſſion of a very fine eſtate, wiſhed to purchaſe a little hunting box, if he could meet with any in that neighbourhood, as he had been informed it was a fine ſporting country. They promiſed to make enquiries, and ſaid, they did not doubt but their maſter would lend his hounds at

any

any time to the Gentleman, as he was fond of ſport. John took his leave after making them promiſe to come in the evening, and informed his maſter of all that had paſſed. The 'Squire, who already flattered himſelf that things were in a good train, ordered plenty of the beſt liquors for their entertainment, and very judiciouſly contrived that there ſhould be every appearance of his being a man of large fortune; a very probable method to ſucceed, in whatever a man undertakes. The gueſts arrived, which were the coachman, footman, and groom, who being well plied with drink, their converſation was quite unreſerved, to which the 'Squire was an ear-witneſs, as he had placed himſelf in the next room, which was ſeparated only by a thin partition. Each party, as is uſual, began to talk of their maſters and family affairs; John ſet the example, by launching out in his maſter's praiſe, boaſting of his being the moſt generous, as well as the beſt natured man that ever exiſted. The others talked of

their

their maſter as a very oppoſite character, being a churliſh old fellow, that could not be happy himſelf, nor let others be ſo; that he was very rich and very ſtingy, and becauſe he thinks, ſays the coachman, he has not got enough already, he keeps his poor neice, who is an heireſs of 6000l. a year, locked up that nobody ſhould ſee her, as the old curmudgeon comes in for her eſtate if ſhe dies ſingle. The footman ſaid he greatly pitied her, as ſhe was almoſt every day in tears, for nobody dare ſpeak to her but her waiting woman, who takes upon her as much authority as if ſhe were her mother, and this ſhe does, I ſuppoſe, to pleaſe my maſter, with whom ſhe is a great favourite. After they were all gone, John and his maſter planned new ſchemes for bringing the matter to a concluſion. The next morning a gipſey happening to paſs by, curtſied to the 'Squire, and begged he would croſs her hand; he replied, that he would give her a ſhilling if ſhe told him any thing good. The cunning gipſey ſeeing that he was an

hand-

handſome man with a good addreſs, gueſſed he was a favourite with the women, and therefore exerted all her rhetoric to pleaſe him, ſaying he would be ſoon married to a woman of large fortune. But the 'Squire, who did not want for ſenſe, if he had made a good uſe of it, did not attend to her predictions, though it occurred, that he could make her ſubſervient to his deſign; he accordingly promiſed to reward her very handſomely, if ſhe would implicitly obey him in what he required of her. He mentioned to her his intentions of making overtures to the rich heireſs, and if he ſucceeded through her means, he would recompence her in ſuch a manner, that ſhe need not be under the neceſſity of begging her bread for the reſt of her life. He warned her, however, to be very circumſpect as to the manner in which ſhe was to act her part, and he promiſed to ſend a perſon with her in a proper diſguiſe, as one of her own people, to direct her in the buſineſs. After thus giving her the clue, he ordered John

to diſguiſe himſelf as one of the gipſey tribe, and they both ſat out to the ſeat of old Gripe, where they no ſooner appeared, than all the ſervants were aſſembled to have their fortunes told; among whom Mrs. Abigail was promiſed ſome unlooked for good fortune. The next morning John waited upon Mrs. Abigail and Molly, to invite them to come to the fair, when he promiſed them tea, &c. But Mrs. Abigail, though much pleaſed with the invitation, was rather ſhocked at Molly being invited to accompany her, whom ſhe conſidered only in the light of a cow girl, and expreſſed her diſapprobation to John, to whom it was a matter of diſtreſs, and who immediately apologized for having mentioned the dairy maid going with her, thinking ſhe would not like to go without ſome woman, but as ſhe had an objection to it, Molly could go along with the other ſervants, and he would accompany Mrs. Abigail himſelf. But as he knew that this would totally put an end to his ever taſting a drop more of

Molly's

Molly's nice cream, he bethought himſelf of another method of pleaſing both parties, which was, that he would come and take Molly to the fair the next evening. Mrs. Abigail being unable to diſapprove of theſe conditions, ſhe ſet out with John, mounted behind him on a pillion, when they preſently arrived at the inn, where John's maſter was ſtanding at the door. When they had alighted, John informed his maſter that the Gentlewoman was Miſs Gripe's waiting maid, upon which, the 'Squire with great addreſs handed her into his apartment, with all the politeneſs as if ſhe had been a woman of diſtinction! for as the old Lady obſerved, people are oftener gained upon by ſhewing them a marked attention, than by even a conſiderable offer of a pecuniary nature. Thus it was with Mrs. Abigail, who though of a covetous diſpoſition, was ſo well pleaſed with this civility, ſo flattering to her vanity, that ſhe was quite charmed with the 'Squire. He immediately ordered tea, coffee, wine,

&c. for her refreſhment; after which, he walked with her to the fair, where he purchaſed for her a few trinkets, by which he entirely won her heart. He then was determined to loſe no more time, but haſten to proceed in what he had ſo happily begun. He repeated all that his man had told the other ſervants, that it was his intention to hire or purchaſe a ſnug little hunting box in that neighbourhood; that he had an eſtate of above two thouſand a year, and that if he could but get a woman of equal fortune, he ſhould be glad to ſettle for life; I wiſh you could recommend me to ſomebody, ſays he, (looking archly at Mrs. Abigail) for I am but juſt returned from making the tour of Europe, and have not yet had time or opportunity of going in purſuit of a wife; now, if any one could help me to a woman as agreeable in perſon as yourſelf, with a good fortune, I would reward them moſt liberally. A thought like lightning ſtruck the covetous Abigail, who began to think that her

own

own fortune would be made, if ſhe could prevail upon her young miſtreſs to liſten to the addreſſes of the 'Squire, who ſhe would ſo manage, as to make him give her an handſome ſettlement for life, provided he married Miſs Gripe. Perceiving that the 'Squire waited for a reply, ſhe ſaid, in a tone betwixt jeſt and earneſt, yes, I can, I believe, put you in a way of getting a young Lady of a much larger fortune than you ſay you have, if you wiſh to be married.—If you make your words good, ſaid he, I will ſettle upon you 300l. a year for your life! Well, ſays ſhe, laughing heartily, if I thought you was in earneſt, I think I could ſerve you, but I muſt have a preſent before hand for my trouble, whether *you* ſucceed or not. This was a little embarraſſing to the 'Squire, who had almoſt got to the end of his finances, but as he had no other chance of ſucceeding, he faithfully promiſed to give her fifty guineas upon the firſt interview with the young Lady, whoever ſhe might be!

Theſe

Theſe preliminaries being ſettled, he then demanded of her who was the lady, whom ſhe had deſtined to make him happy? Upon being told it was Old Gripe's niece, the rich heireſs, he pretended to draw back, as if diſguſted, ſaying, he had already heard ſomething of that lady; but if ſhe was ſo deformed and ugly as it was reported, he could not poſſibly think of being united to ſuch a diſagreeable woman, if ſhe were worth a million. Miſs Abigail replied, it was true ſhe was not handſome, nor was her figure very genteel, but ſhe was not near ſo bad as was reported, and was very good natured, nor did ſhe want for ſenſe; and beſides, her immenſe fortune would make up for all defects; but continues the A. the difficulty will be how to manage an interview; for if once the old fellow was to have the leaſt ſuſpicion, that any man came to his houſe with a view of having his niece, ſhe will be locked up more ſtrictly than ever; and perhaps all the ſervants, whom he might think acceſſary

in

in the affair, would be diſch[illegible]. ſays he, I have thought of [illegible] you will agree to it, that I [illegible]ll ſucceed. There is in this town a cunning gipſey, who tells fortunes, if you can ſo contrive it, as to prevail on the young lady to have her fortune told, we could inſtruct the gipſey what to ſay. Aye, ſays the A. that I can eaſily manage, as we walk every evening in the garden, and oftentimes in the park; we can appoint the gipſey to be near at hand, when we will walk towards her! but previouſly to that, you paſs ſlowly by after ſun-ſet (as the old man does not walk out ſo late, becauſe of the damps, being ſubject to the rheumatiſm) and then you ſhall ſee her, but do not ſpeak to me, nor even let your ſervant. The next evening as uſual, Miſs Gripe and her maid took a turn in the garden, and from thence into the park, when, at a little diſtance, there appeared two men on horſeback; they continued their walk, when the two men paſſed ſlowly on, looking very ſtedfaſtly

at

at Miſs G. and her maid; Mrs. A. took not the leaſt notice to Miſs, that ſhe even obſerved them; but Miſs ſaid, I wonder who that handſome man is, who was the foremoſt of the two, I never ſaw him paſs by before? That is not extraordinary, replied the A. for there are a great number of ſtrangers arrived in the village, on account of the fair. They then returned to the houſe, Miſs ſtill ſpeaking of the two men. The next evening they took the ſame walk, when behold they eſpied the gipſey, upon which Mrs. A. ſaid, I do really believe that is the very fortune-teller they talk ſo much of; the gipſey ſtopped, and begged ſhe would croſs her hand; aye, ſays the A. I will let you tell me my fortune, but I charge you not to tell me when I ſhall die; this ſhe ſaid, to make Miſs believe that the gipſey was endowed with ſupernatural knowledge; but obſerving it would take up too much time to have both their fortunes told that evening, ſhe aſked Miſs if ſhe liked to hear hers? if ſhe did, the

gipſey

gipſey ſhould tell hers firſt. Miſs was much pleaſed at the idea, and readily conſented. The gipſey, among other things, told Miſs ſhe would be ſhortly married to a very handſome man, of large fortune, deſcribing preciſely the very perſon Miſs ſaw paſs by on horſeback, and added, that ſhe would ſoon be at liberty to enjoy the ſweets of life, and be no longer locked up in the cruel manner ſhe was, becauſe her relations wanted to enjoy her fortune after her death! and that ſhe would very ſhortly ſee the man who was deſtined to be her huſband; and if ſuch a one offered to her a ring, ſhe muſt take it, but if ſhe refuſed it, ſhe never would have another offer. What the artful gipſey ſaid, made a deep impreſſion upon Miſs, who now felt more diſcontented than ever with her confinement. At length, a few evenings after, ſhe ſaw a Gentleman on horſeback, alone, advancing towards them, who Miſs remembered to be the ſame ſhe ſaw before; he bowed very reſpectfully, diſmounted,

and faſtened his horſe to the ſtile, and approached Miſs Gripe with great politeneſs and addreſs, entreating the favor of her to wear the ring, he was then taking from off his own finger, one night only, and that he would come again the next evening to learn his fate; that happening to ſee her the very firſt time he paſſed that way, he was forcibly ſtruck with her charms; that it made a deep impreſſion on him, and though he had not the honor to know to whom he ſpoke, being an utter ſtranger to that part of the world, where chance had brought him, yet, if ſhe would condeſcend to put herſelf under his protection, he would in a few days convey her to his houſe in town; and as he had a very large fortune, it was immaterial to him whether ſhe had any or not, as his ſole aim was to find a woman capable of making him happy! But if ſhe were to be ſo cruel as to return him the ring, he ſhould be the moſt miſerable of men; ſaying this, the canting hypocrite immediately mount-

ed

ed his horſe, and galloped off full ſpeed, leaving the aſtoniſhed Lady full of doubts and fears; but ſhe was, poor thing, ſo tired with her confinement, and ſo captivated with the perſon and addreſs of the ſtranger, that ſhe was almoſt bereſt of the little ſenſe ſhe had, or elſe, ſhe muſt have been rather offended than pleaſed at the fulſome encomiums paſſed on her perſon, which would have exaſperated a woman of ſound underſtanding. Having accepted of the ring, there remained no difficulty for this artful v——n to carry his ſcheme into execution, aided by the wicked Abigail, who ſold her to miſery and wretchedneſs; for the wretch having purchaſed that ſeat with her money, ſhe will be moſt likely locked up in it during her life. One of the reaſons I have heard he is ſo cruel to her, is, becauſe ſhe has refuſed to ſign ſome writings, by which he would have been put into poſſeſſion of all her property, which it ſeems is ſo ſettled, that he cannot touch any thing more than the intereſt of it,

during her life. Mr. Tudor returned the Lady many thanks for the trouble ſhe had been at in complying with his requeſt, and though he had no doubt, from the manner it was related to him, of the veracity of the Old Lady, yet mentioning the circumſtance to many others in the neighbourhood where this unfortunate Lady reſides, he found it fully corroborated, as a matter of fact!

I believe, indeed, that many a young woman has been ruined by liſtening to thoſe peſts to ſociety, fortune tellers, and making confidents of their maid ſervants. I could fill a volume with reciting facts within my own knowledge, of the miſchief that has been cauſed by this tribe of miſcreants.

Adieu, my dear Madam,

&c. &c.

TWELFTH LETTER TO THE SAME.

CALAIS.

I AM honoured, my dear Madam, with your very polite and friendly letter, and return you many thanks for the kind offer you make of accommodating us till our own houſe can be got ready for our reception. I ſincerely lament it is not in our power to accept of an invitation, which muſt have proved ſo perfectly agreeable; but we cannot think, dear Madam, of intruding ourſelves upon you, encumbered as we are, with children, monkies, birds, dogs, and a long ſtring of etceteras; but ſhall certainly in our way to H——ſhire, call and pay you our beſt reſpects.

As I am ever fearful of relating ſtories after other people, unleſs I can anſwer for the authenticity of at leaſt, *ſome* part of them. I am glad to be informed by you, Madam, that I have not been led to repeat a falſity with reſpect to Mrs.

P.

P. though I confeſs I had rather for the ſake of the poor highly injured Lady, it had not been true. What a diſgrace to human nature, that there ſhould be found MEN who are capable of ſuch atrocious actions! Can ſuch wretches believe in a future ſtate? Surely not, for I think none but Atheiſts can be ſo thoroughly profligate and abandoned, for *they*, not believing in a future exiſtence, give a looſe to their vicious propenſities and the indulgence of their inordinate paſſions, without fear of that puniſhment which (they ſeem not aware) awaits them! Can we ſay that ſuch men are guided by Reaſon? If a man obeys only the dictates of his paſſions, uncurbed by reaſon, where is the difference betwixt him and a brute, which it is ſaid is actuated upon by inſtinct alone? Not that *I* by any means hold that to be the caſe, for I have myſelf been often an eye witneſs (having taken a peculiar pleaſure in obſerving minutely the actions of dumb animals) of ſuch aſtoniſhing proofs of their being capable

pable of reflection, as I think puts it paſt diſpute, but that they are endued with reaſon.

A ſtory which has lately been related to me by a very intelligent and ſenſible Scotchman, whoſe veracity I have no reaſon to doubt, will, I think puzzle thoſe who will not allow that dumb animals act otherwiſe than by natural inſtinct.—But for the honour of the canine ſpecies in particular, whoſe ſagacity, ſenſe, and fidelity are ſo univerſally known, I will, my dear Madam, for your amuſement, endeavour to recite the ſtory as I heard it.

A Richard, Duke of Hamilton, who was a man of a moſt eccentric turn of mind, and whoſe only purſuits were the gratification of his paſſions, took it ſuddenly into his head one morning on his return from hunting, to ſet out on a tour to the Continent, and gave orders to his ſervants to get immediately ready to attend him, and bade them make haſte to put up the dogs.

Whilſt

Whilſt his Grace was preparing to mount his horſe, a ſpaniel, that was ſeldom much noticed by the Duke, fawned upon him with uncommon affection, and ſeemed eager to accompany him, but the Duke, who always rode very faſt, thinking that the dog would be unable to keep pace with him, gave orders for his being faſtened up; but the ſpaniel, who 'till then had been always remarkably docile, and eaſily governed, growled, and attempted to bite every one who offered to touch him, at which the Duke ſeemed much ſurprized, and conſented to his following him, ſaying, that he ſhould be ſent back from Dover with the horſes. When the Duke went on board the packet, he was followed by only four of his ſuite, the reſt of his attendants being to return back with the horſes and dog; but the latter made many attempts to get into the boat with his maſter; and when the ſervants attempted to take him up, he became quite outrageous, and bit them, by which means he regained his liberty, and

imme-

immediately plunging into the ſea, ſwam for a conſiderable time after the packet, 'till he was almoſt ſpent, when the Duke feeling compaſſion for him, ordered out the ſmall boat to take him in, ſaying, in his rough way, d—n the dog, if he will come he muſt. The poor animal careſſed and fondled the Duke ſo much, that his Grace, who was as much pleaſed as aſtoniſhed, patted and ſtroked him, calling him his faithful cur. It was after ſun-ſet when the Duke landed at Calais, when he ordered ſupper to be got ready immediately, as he intended to travel poſt all night, being in haſte to get to Paris. Every one endeavoured to perſuade him to ſtop 'till next morning, ſaying it was very dangerous travelling at night, as the roads were then infeſted by a terrible banditti, particularly the foreſt, through which he muſt paſs; but he was determined to purſue his journey, ſaying he defied any one to attack him, as he and his attendants were all well armed. Having paſſed through the foreſt without any

accident, he laughed at the fears of thoſe who had endeavoured to diſſuade him from travelling at night. At a little diſtance from the foreſt he eſpied a light, and ordered his *avant courier* to haſten to the houſe, and get every thing prepared for his reception. The Inn was large, with good accommodation: after the Duke had regaled himſelf with a good ſupper, he ordered his attendants to call him early in the morning, and then faſtened his door, with an intention of going immediately to bed. After employing ſome time in looking over ſome papers which he had in his pocket, he began to undreſs, when the dog perceiving his maſter advancing towards the bed, took hold of the bottom of his night-gown, and endeavoured to draw him back; the Duke was much ſurprized, but thought little of it, 'till the dog ſerved him ſo a ſecond time, which made his Grace imagine that ſome body lay concealed in the chamber; he therefore looked under the bed, and carefully examined every part of the room,

but

but finding nothing, he attempted again to approach the bed, when the dog drew him back with ſuch force, that the Duke fell down, and ſtruck his forehead againſt the fender, by which means he received a deep cut, which bled for ſome time; at length the Duke recovering himſelf, was getting up, when he perceived his faithful ſpaniel lying cloſe by him, licking the wound! But his aſtoniſhment was beyond imagination to paint, when he ſaw nothing but a great quantity of ſmoke or ſteam, which increaſed ſo faſt, that he was not able to diſtinguiſh any one object in the room. For ſome time he ſtood motionleſs, 'till he was rouſed by a loud knocking at his chamber door, from one who demanded entrance! But upon his Grace declaring he would not open the door, they threatened to break it open; upon which he ſwore that the firſt man who offered to come in, ſhould loſe his life, and to convince them that he was in earneſt, he fired off one of his piſtols through the key-hole, which cauſed them

inſtantly to retire. Preſently he heard a great confuſion in the houſe, probably owing to ſome of the villains being wounded, as the noiſe continued ſome time; but as none of his attendants appeared, on his calling out to them, or upon the report of the piſtol, he began to feel greatly alarmed, looking upon his death as inevitable! but, preſently, the noiſe ceaſed on a ſudden, and a profound ſilence enſued! yet he was fearful of opening his chamber-door, thinking they were lying quietly in ambuſh, in hopes of his coming out. Day-light appearing, he began to think of making his eſcape out of the window, but his terror was greatly increaſed, when he perceived the windows were all barricadoed with iron! He was almoſt frantic with rage and deſpair, not knowing how to act! Whilſt his mind was thus agitated, he heard the ſound of a carriage at a diſtance; and having luckily a pencil in his pocket, he wrote a few lines, deſcribing his ſituation and rank, when a ſmall market-cart appeared,

peared, with only one man in it, to whom he made a ſign to ſtop, putting out his hand through the iron bars, and throwing down the paper he had been writing upon. The driver took it up, and carried it with him; when in a little better than an hour the *Marechauſsée* arrived, well knowing the character of the houſe, though they had no conception of the horrid murders that had been committed in it! They knocked loudly at the ſtreet door, but nobody appearing, they broke it open, and found all the family were fled! The Duke no longer was at a loſs to know why his attendants came not to his aſſiſtance, for he found every one of them murdered in their beds!! The ſteam which had ſubſided diſcovered an aperture, through which the bed was let down by pullies, into a chamber, wherein there was a reſervoir of boiling water, which was deſtined to put an end to the Duke's life! for they no doubt imagined that the Duke was in bed when they let it down; and it appeared that many other travellers had been

been murdered by the ſame means, from the vaſt quantity of human bones that were found in that horrid place! It was ſuppoſed that the Inn was kept as a decoy for travellers, and moſt certainly belonged to the banditti, ſome of whom it was conjectured, would have returned in the evening, and have put an end to the Duke's exiſtence.

His Grace, it is ſaid, took an everlaſting farewel of the Continent, contemplated his paſt life, and his miraculous eſcape, which had ſo wonderful an effect upon him, that he ever after led a moſt exemplary life! It is likewiſe ſaid, that his Grace is painted at full length, with his faithful dog by his ſide, and that there are alſo ſome lines written in praiſe of that ſagacious and affectionate animal.—Now, my dear Madam, I doubt not but you will be of opinion, from what has been above related, that in ſome meaſure it coincides with my hypotheſis, that dogs are capable of REFLECTION, and of courſe, REASON! Will you not agree with me, that

that the Duke's eſcape was entirely owing to a *fore-knowledge* in the dog? Does not his conduct throughout, warrant an anſwer in the affirmative? If then that be the caſe, it cannot be ſaid the creature acted merely from *inſtinct;* and if he poſſeſſed a knowing faculty, he certainly could reaſon as well, if not better than us, for he plainly evinced that he had a *pre-knowledge* that his maſter's life was in danger, from the firſt inſtant the Duke took it in his head to travel to the Continent! It may be ſaid, that there is nothing ſo extraordinary in a dog being anxious to follow his maſter, who is going a journey; it is true, but this dog was not in the habit of going out, but with the other dogs; but I will drop that argument, and confine it ſolely to his tugging his maſter's night-gown repeatedly, and with ſuch force at laſt, as to throw him down, and whilſt the Duke was fainting, the bed diſappeared! So that it is clear, if the dog had not ſtopped his maſter from going to bed, he would have

have been inevitably loſt! That it was the interpoſition of PROVIDENCE, which ordained that the animal ſhould be inſtrumental in ſaving the Duke's life, I can eaſily believe, as my ideas ſo perfectly coincide with thoſe of the learned Doctor Clark, who in his Demonſtrations ſays: "All things that are done in the "world, are done either immediately by "GOD Himſelf, or by created Intelligent "Beings, matter being evidently not at "all capable of any laws or powers "whatſoever, any more than it is capa-"ble of intelligence."

'Tis eaſy to perceive from thence, that the learned Doctor's opinion was, that brutes have ſouls; if ſo, they muſt be immortal, as ſpirits cannot be annihilated. Nay, ſome philoſophers, among whom was the learned Jeſuit, Father Bougeant, have even gone ſo far, as to declare it to be their opinion, that all the dumb creation have ſpiritual ſouls, and that they are reduced to that humiliating ſtate by way of puniſhment, being "the primary

"effect

" effect of the Divine Vengeance againſt
" the rebellious ſpirits who were con-
" demned to everlaſting puniſhment, but
" that this decree might poſſibly be re-
" ſerved for the day of judgment, and
" that GOD, in order that ſo many legi-
" ons of reprobate ſpirits might not be
" uſeleſs, diſtributed them through the
" ſeveral ſpaces of the world to ſerve the
" deſign of HIS PROVIDENCE, and make
" HIS OMNIPOTENCE appear! perſuaded
" that beaſts have intelligence, how much
" are they to be pitied for the exceſſive
" evils which the majority of them are
" expoſed to. How unhappy is the con-
" dition of horſes ſuffering under the
" barbarous hands of an unfeeling car-
" man, murdering them with blows, and
" cruelly ſuffering from being driven till
" every nerve is ſtretched ready to burſt.
" But, indeed, if they are given up to
" man for the purpoſe of exerciſing his
" cruelty on them, man is juſtified (if
" any thing can juſtify his want of feel-
" ing and humanity) in obeying the de-

" ſigns of Providence; but this is a mys-
" tery incomprehenſible to human rea-
" ſon! It is not then for us to ſay whe-
" ther or no they deſerve to be thus pu-
" niſhed, but only to prove from daily
" experience, that they poſſeſs a know-
" ing faculty, reaſon, and reflection, but
" little inferior to men."

Another reaſon which this ingenious writer gives for thinking that they are the original rebellious ſpirits, is, that it is a truth beyond doubt, that beaſts by nature are extremely vicious, but cannot ſin, becauſe they are not free; but the various birds and beaſts of prey are cruel, and many devour each other. " Cats are
" perfidious and ungrateful, monkies
" miſchievous, dogs envious, and the
" generality of beaſts are jealous and re-
" vengeful to exceſs." Without quoting, Madam, the hypotheſis of the learned writer further, enough has been ſaid to ſhew it is an abſurd opinion, to think that brutes are mere machines. Nay, the great Locke allows, that brutes have ideas, and

that

that they reaſon, though they are not perhaps capable of comparing and comprehending theſe ideas, and reaſon abſtractedly as we do.

I muſt now conclude my long diſſertation upon the brute creation, as Mr. Tudor has juſt informed me, that he ſhall leave me here for a few weeks longer, whilſt he gets all things in readineſs for our reception in H——ſhire. He intends himſelf the honour of being the bearer of this letter, and as it will be the laſt that you will receive from me on *this* ſide the *Albion* ſhore, you may bid adieu to your *continental* correſpondent, who hopes ſoon to have the happineſs of expreſſing in perſon, thoſe ſentiments of regard and eſteem which ſhe ſo ſincerely feels?

I have the honour to be,
My dear Madam,
With the utmoſt reſpect
and moſt perfect eſteem,
Your moſt obliged humble ſervant,
A. TUDOR.

CONCLUSION.

MR. and Mrs. Tudor having ſpent ſome years after their return from the Continent at their peaceful abode, in the full enjoyment of domeſtic felicity, Mrs. Tudor ſolely occupying herſelf in the pleaſing taſk of educating her own daughters, Mr. Tudor was informed of the death of his ſtep-mother, Mrs. L——, by which he became intitled to a fortune of nearly twelve thouſand pounds.

Upon the ſtrength of this very acceptable acquiſition, he took a very elegant houſe at B——, but whilſt he was employed in making preparations for this new change of ſcene, and indulging himſelf in the pleaſing expectation of living in a ſtile more ſuitable to the views he had formed, of introducing his children into that kind of ſociety which could both inſtruct, as well as give that poliſh to their

their manners, ſo neceſſary to their introduction into polite life, he was much aſtoniſhed to find that two men, whoſe names he never ſo much as heard of, had entered a caveat againſt him, putting in *their* claim to the property which he was intitled to in right of his firſt wife! This induced him more attentively to examine the WILL of his wife's grandfather, old Mr. B——r, of French extraction, who expreſsly left the above property to his grand-daughter, if ſhe ſhould arrive at the age of twenty-one; but in caſe that ſhe died before ſhe attained that period, and in *that caſe only*, it was to go to ſome of his relations ſpecified in the WILL. Now, as the firſt Mrs. Tudor lived to the age of *twenty-four*, Mr. Tudor held in contempt the attempts of his French couſins to deprive him of his juſt property; but theſe men were obſtinately bent, though both law and reaſon ſeemed ſo ſtrongly againſt them, to bring it to a trial. The firſt lawyers in the kingdom were conſulted and retained by Mr. Tudor,

dor, among whom were the great T——w, W——n, and the truly worthy M——ks, who all laughed at the folly of the opponents, as nothing could be more clear to *their* underſtandings (their notions of EQUITY being equal to their profound knowledge of the law) than that Mr. Tudor had an indiſputable right to his wife's fortune!

At length, however, the cauſe came on, when it appeared to every honeſt man who had ſenſe to perceive, that it was paſt diſpute, Mr. Tudor's juſt property! Nay, what is ſtill more ſtrange, it appeared ſo to the very C——r but the day before! for Mr. Tudor, on the day previous to that on which the C——r decided it in favour of the *foreigners*, received a letter from his friend, Mr. H——d (who had been thirty years Regiſtrer to the Court of Chancery, and who was frequently conſulted by the C———r) in which he thus expreſſed himſelf; "Come and dine with "me to-morrow, my dear friend, that "we may drink the C———r's health in "a bum-

" a bumper of claret, for I would not
" give ſixpence to inſure a decree in
" your favour, from what the C———r
" ſaid yeſterday at table; for this caſe,
" ſaid he, is ſo ſimilar to that of Randal
" and Ruſſell's, it can give me no trou-
" ble; the Lords have pointed out the
" law in that caſe clearly, and this is
" even ſtronger."

This, ſaid Mr. Tudor (after his fatal loſs) brings to my mind a little of Sel-don's table talk. " Equity (ſays he) is a
" r—h thing; for the law we have mea-
" ſure, and know what to truſt to; but
" Equity is according to the conſcience
" of him that is Chancellor; and as that
" is larger or narrower, ſo is Equity. It
" is all one as if they ſhould make the
" ſtandard of meaſure, a Chancellor's
" foot; what an uncertain meaſure would
" that be! one Chancellor has a long
" foot, another a ſhort foot, a third, an
" indifferent foot—'tis the ſame thing in
" a Chancellor's conſcience."

The

The cauſe failing in one Court, Mr. Tudor was adviſed to bring it before the higheſt Tribunal in the kingdom, where injured Juſtice had always found relief! but the ſame fatality attended him!——

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* * * * * * * * * For in ſpite of every argument made by the great and learned C——den, who nobly ſtood for three hours to defend the cauſe of Juſtice—but alas! on that day, Juſtice was in Eclipſe! That worthy and humane nobleman, Lord P——t, perceiving the unfavourable proceedings of the Court, deſired that the opinion of all the Judges might be taken.—"I am here, (ſaid the "noble Lord) a Judge in this Court, but "I am not a Lawyer." This equitable motion of his Lordſhip being over-ruled, the noble Earl walked indignantly away, and was followed by others, who felt the ſame indignation as his Lordſhip. The learned C——n, when the whole was over, wrote a letter to a friend, in which he lamented Mr. Tudor's very hard caſe; "his

" his caſe would have been hard (ſaid " that great lawyer) had the law been " againſt him," lamenting in the moſt pathetic terms, his ill treatment and grievous loſs by an unfavourable ſentence; adding, my heart bleeds for him, and to be beat by * * *!!!

Mr. Tudor thus cruelly diſappointed of his property, beſide ſuffering from the heavy expences incurred by the law (full ſeven hundred pounds) he quitted again his native ſhore, to ſeek a more favourable ſoil, and one better ſuited to his reduced ſituation. Having mentioned his loſs, and his intentions of going to France, in converſation with ſome Spaniſh Gentlemen of high rank, they perſuaded him to go to Spain, where they aſſured him he would be well received, and where he would meet with encouragement, if he choſe to act in his military capacity, and obtain a lucrative poſt. Mr. Tudor having a family of eight children, and a very limited fortune, he in juſtice to his children, moſt readily embraced the offer,

and therefore went to London at the ſame time theſe Gentlemen did, who preſented him to Count E——s (Secretary to Prince M———, the Spaniſh Ambaſſador) who gave him a paſſport to enter the kingdom of Spain, and alſo letters of recommendation to the Marquis de G——di, Prime Miniſter at Madrid..

Upon the arrival of Mr. Tudor and family at Barcelona, he immediately ſent his letters off to the Miniſter, when an anſwer came by the return of poſt, written in the Spaniſh language, ſigned by the Secretary, *Del Campo*, (a Nobleman well known and reſpected in England ſince that period) in which it was recommended to Mr. Tudor to quit Barcelona in leſs than a month and come on to V——, where he would receive proper inſtructions to enter upon his new employment, the particulars of which would be ſpecified on his arrival at that place, where he would meet with every accommodation ſuitable to his rank and the appointment he was to hold; which was no

leſs,

leſs, than to take upon him that command which G——l ——— then held, who was then under the diſpleaſure of the Sovereign, having been unſucceſsful in a late undertaking. The honours and emoluments were to be ſuch as would have made full amends for Mr. Tudor's recent loſs, if it had been ten times the ſum. But as a proof of that integrity of character and nice honour, which ever actuated the actions of Mr. Tudor, and which even his bittereſt enemies had not the power to diſavow, he revolted at the idea of accepting an employment which he found would prove, if he were to be ſucceſsful, detrimental to the intereſts of his own country. Few men, treated as he had been, would have withſtood an offer, which not only would have *ennobled* him, but by which he muſt have procured to himſelf a very large fortune. Nothing, however, he ſaid, though cruelly and unjuſtly done by, ſhould ever prevail upon him to lift up an hoſtile hand againſt the intereſt of his own King and country;

in ſhort, he left Spain with as much precipitation as if he had been a deſerter, leſt it ſhould be known at Madrid and he be overtaken, well knowing the Spaniſh character, which is that of being jealous and revengeful to an extreme. He was fearful if he did not eſcape, that he ſhould feel the effects of their anger, as they would look upon it as an inſult, the refuſing ſuch offers, particularly as it was hinted to him in *confidence* the commiſſion he was to execute, which was with great caution concealed from the knowledge of Lord ——— our Ambaſſador then at that Court! therefore he could expect nothing leſs than the loſs of liberty, or perhaps life itſelf, if they had the leaſt idea of his quitting the kingdom, which he found great difficulty to accompliſh, as he could not have got a paſsport, if it had not been for a French Gentleman who procured it for him at the ſame time he got his own. Upon Mr. Tudor's arrival in France, he wrote a moſt reſpectful letter to the Marquis de G——di,

G——di, returning him many thanks for the high honours intended him, and the confidence his Excellency had propoſed to put in him, and made the beſt and moſt *natural* apology for declining it. In anſwer to this, he received a letter written (for the firſt time) in Engliſh, from the then Secretary, *Del Campo*, expreſſing his concern that Mr. Tudor ſhould have declined complying with their wiſhes, but highly complimented him on that honour and integrity he ſo nobly evinced for his own country.

Upon the arrival of *Del Campo* in England ſome years after, Mr. Tudor waited upon him, when a mutual friendſhip took place, which laſted during Mr. Tudor's ſtay in England, who finding that country much too dear for his impoveriſhed finances, he bade an everlaſting farewel to a country which he dearly loved, but which had been hoſtile to him, and therefore bent his way towards the South of France, where he propoſed ſpending the remainder of his days; but

previouſly, he propoſed to wander towards Italy, being anxious to tread on claſſic ground, and indulge himſelf with viewing thoſe productions of Nature and Art, which are there to be met with in a ſuperior ſtile to what is to be ſeen in any other part of Europe; but, Providence had deſtined him a longer journey, —towards that "bourne from whence no "traveller returns."—For on the very morning he ſat off from *Boulogne ſur Mer*, that very morn he bade adieu, a long adieu to all earthly purſuits, and ſuddenly dropped from his ſeat in the carriage!

We may venture to affirm, fearleſs of contradiction, that few men had leſs failings, but fewer ſtill, poſſeſſed his EMINENT VIRTUES!

FINIS.

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